

ENGLISH POEMS

BY

JOHN MILTON

EDITED

WITH LIFE, INTRODUCTION AND SELECTED NOELS

BY

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ENGLISH CLASSICS

M I L T O N

R C BROWNE

O MIGHTY MOUTH'D INVENTOR OF HARMONIES
O SKILL'D TO SING OF TIME OR ETERNITY
GOD GIFTED ORGAN VOICE OF ENGLAND
MILTON A NAME TO RESOUND FOR AGES
WHOSE TITAN ANGELS GABRIEL ABRAHAM
STARR'D FROM JEHOVAH'S GORGEOUS ARMOURIES
TOWER AS THE DEEP DOMED EMPYREAN
RINGS TO THE ROAR OF AN ANGEL ONSET—
ME RATHER ALL THAT BOWERY LOVELINESS
THE BROOKS OF EDEN MAZILY MURMURING—
AND BLOOM PROFUSE AND CEDAR ARCHES
CHARM AS A WANDERER OUT IN OCEAN
WHERE SOME REFULGENT SUNSET OF INDIA
STREAMS OER A RICH AMBROSIAL OCEAN ISLE
AND CRIMSON HUED THE STATELY PALM WOODS
WHISPER IN ODOROUS HEIGHTS OF EVEN

Timothyson

III

LAST POEMS, 1665-1671

(Continued)

PARADISE LOST.

BOOK VII

THE ARGUMENT

Raphael at the request of Adam relates how and wherefore this world was first created, that God, after the expelling of Satan and his angels out of Heaven, declared his pleasure to create another world and other creatures to dwell therein, sends his Son with glory and attendance of angels to perform the work of creation in six days, the angels celebrate with hymns the performance thereof and his re-ascension into Heaven

DESCEND from Heav'n, Urania, by that name
If rightly thou art call'd, whose voice divine
Following, above th' Olympian hill I soar,
Above the flight of Pegasean wing
The meaning, not the name I call for thou 5
Nor of the Muses nine, nor on the top
Of old Olympus dwell'st, but Heav'nly born,
Before the hills appear'd, or fountain flow'd,
Thou with eternal Wisdom didst converse,
Wisdom thy sister, and with her didst play 10
In presence of th' Almighty Father, pleas'd
With thy celestial song Up led by thee
Into the Heav'n of Heav'ns I have presum'd,
An earthly guest, and drawn empyreal air,
Thy tempring, with like safety guided down, 15
Return me to my native element
Lest from this flying steed unrein'd (as once
Bellerophon, though from a lower clime)
Dismounted, on th' Alean field I fall,
Erroneous there to wander and forlorn 20

Half yet remains unsung, but narrower bound
 Within the visible diurnal sphere,
 Standing on earth, not rapt above the pole,
 More safe I sing with mortal voice, unchang'd
 To hoarse or mute, though fall'n on evil days, 25
 On evil days though fall'n, and evil tongues,
 In darkness, and with dangers compast round,
 And solitude, yet not alone, while thou
 Visit'st my slumber nightly, or when morn
 Purples the east still govern thou my song, 30
 Urania, and fit audience find, though few
 But drive far off the barbarous dissonance
 Of Bacchus and his revellers, the race
 Of that wild rout that tore the Thracian bard
 In Rhodope, where woods and rocks had ears 35
 To rapture, till the savage clamour drown'd
 Both harp and voice, nor could the Muse defend
 Her son So fail not thou, who thee implores
 For thou art Heav'nly, she an empty dream
 Say goddess, what ensu'd when Raphael, 40
 The affable archangel, had forewarn'd
 Adam by dire example to beware
 Apostasy, by what befel in Heaven
 To those apostates, lest the like befall
 In Paradise to Adam or his race, 45
 Charg'd not to touch the interdicted tree,
 If they transgress, and slight that sole command,
 So easily obey'd amid the choice
 Of all tastes else to please their appetite,
 Though wandring He with his consorted Eve 50
 The story heard attentive, and was fill'd
 With admiration, and deep muse to hear
 Of things so high and strange, things to their thought
 So unimaginable as hate in Heav'n,
 And war so near the peace of God in bliss 55
 With such confusion but the evil soon
 Driv'n back redounded as a flood on those
 From whom it sprung, impossible to mix

With blessedness Whence Adam soon repeal'd
The doubts that in his heart arose and now 60
Led on, yet sinless, with desire to know
What nearer might concern him, how this World
Of heav'n and Earth conspicuous first began,
When, and whereof created, for what cause,
What within Eden or without was done 65
Before his memory, as one whose drought
Yet scarce allay'd still eyes the current stream,
Whose liquid murmur heard new thirst excites,
Proceeded thus to ask his Heav'nly guest
 'Great things, and full of wonder in our ears, 70
Far differing from this world, thou hast reveal'd,
Divine interpreter, by favour sent
Down from the empyrean to forewarn
Us timely of what might else have been our loss,
Unknown, which human knowledge could not reach 75
For which to the Infinitely Good we owe
Immortal thanks, and his admonishment
Receive with solemn purpose to observe
Immutably his sovran will, the end
Of what we are But since thou hast voutsaf't 80
Gently for our instruction to impart
Things above Earthly thought, which yet concern'd
Our knowing, as to highest wisdom seem'd,
Deign to descend now lower, and relate
What may no less perhaps avail us known, 85
How first began this heav'n which we behold
Distant so high, with moving fires adorn'd
Innumerable, and this which yields or fills
All space, the ambient air wide interfus'd
Embracing round this florid Earth, what cause 90
Mov'd the Creator in his holy rest
Through all eternity so late to build
In Chaos, and the work begun, how soon
Absolv'd, if unforbid thou may'st unfold,
What we not to explore the secrets ask 95
Of his eternal empire, but the more

To magnify his works, the more we know
 And the great Light of day yet wants to run
 Much of his race though steep, suspense in heav'n
 Held by thy voice, thy potent voice he hears, 100
 And longer will delay to hear thee tell
 His generation, and the rising birth
 Of Nature from the unapparent Deep
 Or if the star of evening and the moon
 Haste to thy audience, Night with her will bring 105
 Silence, and Sleep listening to thee will watch,
 Or we can bid his absence, till thy song
 End, and dismiss thee ere the morning shine'

Thus Adam his illustrious guest besought
 And thus the godlike angel answer'd mild 110

'This also thy request with caution askt
 Obtain though to recount Almighty works
 What words or tongue of seraph can suffice,
 Or heart of man suffice to comprehend?
 Yet what thou canst attain, which best may serve 115
 To glorify the Maker, and infer
 Thee also happier, shall not be withheld
 Thy hearing, such commission from above
 I have receiv'd, to answer thy desire
 Of knowledge within bounds, beyond abstain 120
 To ask, nor let thine own inventions hope
 Things not reveal'd, which th' invisible King,
 Only Omniscient, hath suppress in night,
 To none communicable in Earth or Heaven
 Enough is left besides to search and know 125
 But knowledge is as food, and needs no less
 Her temperance over appetite, to know
 In measure what the mind may well contain,
 Oppresses else with surfeit, and soon turns
 Wisdom to folly, as nourishment to wind 130

'Know then, that after Lucifer from Heav'n
 (So call him, brighter once amidst the host
 Of angels, than that star the stars among)
 Fell with his flaming legions through the Deep

Into his place, and the great Son return'd 135
Victorious with his saints, th' Omnipotent
Eternal Father from his throne beheld
Their multitude, and to his Son thus spake
 "At least our envious Foe hath fail'd, who thought
All like himself rebellious, by whose aid 140
This inaccessible high strength, the seat
Of Deity supreme, us dispossess,
He trusted to have seiz'd, and into fraud
Drew many, whom their place knows here no more,
Yet far the greater part have kept, I see, 145
Their station, Heav'n yet populous retains
Number sufficient to possess her realms
Though wide, and this high temple to frequent
With ministries due and solemn rites
But lest his heart exalt him in the harm 150
Already done, to have dispeopl'd Heav'n
My damage fondly deem'd, I can repair
That detriment, if such it be to lose
Self-lost, and in a moment will create
Another world, out of one man a race 155
Of men innumerable, there to dwell,
Not here, till by degrees of merit rais'd
They open to themselves at length the way
Up hither, under long obedience tri'd,
And Earth be chang'd to Heav'n, and Heav'n to Earth, 160
One kingdom, joy and union without end
Meanwhile inhabit lax, ye powers of Heav'n,
And thou my Word, begotten Son, by thee
This I perform, speak thou, and be it done
My overshadowing Spirit and might with thee 165
I send along, ride forth, and bid the Deep
Within appointed bounds be heav'n and earth,
Boundless the Deep, because I am who fill
Infinitude, nor vacuous the space !
Though I uncircumscrib'd myself retire, 170
And put not forth my goodness, which is free
To act or not, Necessity and Chance

Approach not me, and what I will is Fate'

'So spake th' Almighty, and to what he spake
His Word, the filial Godhead, gave effect 175

Immediate are the acts of God, more swift
Than time or motion, but to human ears
Cannot without process of speech be told,
So told as earthly notion can receive
Great triumph and rejoicing was in Heav'n 180

When such was heard declar'd the Almighty's will,
Glory they sung to the Most High, good will
To future men, and in their dwellings peace,
Glory to him whose just avenging ire
Had driven out th' ungodly from his sight 185

And th' habitations of the just, to him
Glory and praise, whose wisdom had ordain'd
Good out of evil to create, instead
Of spirits malign a better race to bring
Into their vacant room, and thence diffuse 190
His good to worlds and ages infinite

'So sang the hierarchies meanwhile the Son
On his great expedition now appear'd,
Girt with omnipotence, with radiance crown'd
Of majesty divine, sapience and love 195

Immense, and all his Father in him shon
About his chariot numberless were pour'd
Cherub and seraph, Potentates and Thrones,
And Virtues, winged spirits, and chariots wing'd,
From th' armoury of God, where stand of old 200
Myriads between two brazen mountains lodg'd
Against a solemn day, harness at hand,

Celestial equipage, and now came forth
Spontaneous, for within them spirit liv'd,
Attendant on their Lord, Heav'n op'nd wide 205

Her ever-during gates, harmonious sound
On golden hinges moving, to let forth
The King of Glory in his powerful Word
And Spirit coming to create new worlds
On Heav'nly ground they stood, and from the shore 210

They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,
Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds
And surging waves, as mountains to assault
Heav'n's highth, and with the centre mix the pole 215
 "Silence, ye troubl'd waves, and thou Deep, peace!"
Said then th' omnific Word, "your discord end"
Nor stay'd, but on the wings of cherubim
Uplifted, in paternal glory rode
Far into Chaos, and the World unborn, 220
For Chaos heard his voice, him all his train
Follow'd in bright procession to behold
Creation, and the wonders of his might
Then stay'd the fervid wheels, and in his hand
He took the golden compasses, prepar'd 225
In God's eternal store, to circumscribe
This universe, and all created things
One foot he centr'd, and the other turn'd
Round through the vast profundity obscure,
And said, "Thus far extend, thus far thy bounds, 230
This be thy just circumference, O World"
Thus God the heav'n created, thus the Earth
Matter unform'd and void darkness profound
Cover'd th' abyss but on the watry calm
His brooding wings the Spirit of God outspread, 235
And vital virtue infus'd, and vital warmth
Throughout the fluid mass, but downward purg'd
The black tartareous cold infernal dregs,
Adverse to life then founded, then conglob'd
Like things to like, the rest to several place 240
Disparted, and between spun out the air,
And Earth self-balanc'd on her centre hung
 "Let there be Light," said God, and forthwith Light
Ethereal, first of things, quintessence pure
Sprung from the Deep, and from her native east 245
To journey through the airy gloom began,
Spher'd in a radiant cloud, for yet the sun
Was not, she in a cloudy tabernacle

Sojourn'd the while God saw the Light was good,
 And light from darkness by the hemisphere 250
 Divided light the Day, and darkness Night
 He nam'd Thus was the first day ev'n and morn
 Nor past uncelebrated, nor unsung
 By the celestial quires, when orient light
 Exhaling first from darkness they beheld, 255
 Birth-day of heav'n and Earth, with joy and shout
 The hollow universal orb they fill'd,
 And touch't their golden harps, and hymning prais'd
 God and his works, Creator him they sung,
 Both when first ev'ning was, and when first morn 260
 'Again, God said, "Let there be firmament
 Amid the waters, and let it divide
 The waters from the waters " and God made
 The firmament, expanse of liquid, pure,
 Transparent, elemental air, diffus'd 265
 In circuit to the uttermost convex
 Of this great round partition firm and sure,
 The waters underneath from those above
 Dividing for as Earth, so he the World
 Built on circumfluous waters calm, in wide 270
 Crystalline ocean, and the loud misrule
 Of Chaos far remov'd, lest fierce extremes
 Contiguous might distemper the whole frame
 And heav'n he nam'd the firmament so Ev'n
 And Morning chorus sung the second day 275
 'The Earth was form'd, but in the womb as yet
 Of waters, embryo immature involv'd,
 Appear'd not over all the face of Earth
 Main Ocean flow'd, not idle, but with warm
 Prolific humour soft'ning all her globe, 280
 Fermented the great Mother to conceive,
 Sate with genial moisture, when God said,
 "Be gather'd now ye waters under heav'n
 Into one place, and let dry land appear"
 Immediately the mountains huge appear 285
 Emergent, and their broad bare backs upheave

Into the clouds, their tops ascend the sky
So high as heav'd the tumid hills, so low
Down sunk a hollow bottom broad and deep,
Capacious bed of waters thither they 290
Hastened with glad precipitance, uproll'd
As drops on dust conglobing from the dry,
Part rise in crystal wall, or ridge direct,
For haste, such flight the great command impress'd
On the swift floods as armies at the call 295
Of trumpet (for of armies thou hast heard)
Troop to their standard, so the watry throng,
Wave rolling after wave, where way they found,
If steep, with torrent rapture, if through plain,
Soft-ebbing, nor withstood them rock or hill, 300
But they, or under ground, or circuit wide
With serpent error wandering, found their way,
And on the washy ooze deep channels wore,
Easy, ere God had bid the ground be dry,
All but within those banks, where rivers now 305
Stream, and perpetual draw their humid train
The dry land, Earth, and the great receptacle
Of congregated waters he call'd Seas
And saw that it was good, and said, "Let th' Earth
Put forth the verdant grass, herb yielding seed, 310
And fruit-tree yielding fruit after her kind,
Whose seed is in herself upon the Earth"
He scarce had said, when the bare Earth, till then
Desert and bare, unsightly, unadorn'd,
Brought forth the tender grass, whose verdure clad 315
Her universal face with pleasant green,
Then herbs of every leaf, that sudden flow'rd,
Op'ning their various colours, and made gay
Her bosom smelling sweet and these scarce blown
Forth flourish't thick the clustring vine, forth crept 320
The smelling gourd, up stood the corny reed
Embattl'd in her field, and the humble shrub,
And bush with frizzl'd hair implicit last
Rose as in dance the stately trees, and spread

Their branches hung with copious fruit, or gemm'd 325
Their blossoms with high woods the hills were crown'd,
With tufts the valleys and each fountain side,
With borders long the rivers That Earth now
Seem'd like to Heav'n, a seat where gods might dwell,
Or wander with delight, and love to haunt 330
Her sacred shades though God had yet not rain'd
Upon the Earth, and man to till the ground
None was, but from the earth a dewy mist
Went up and water'd all the ground, and each
Plant of the field, which ere it was in the earth 335
God made, and every herb, before it grew
On the green stem, God saw that it was good
So Ev'n and Morn recorded the third day
 'Again th' Almighty spake "Let there be lights
High in th' expanse of heaven, to divide 340
The day from night, and let them be for signs,
For seasons, and for days, and circling years,
And let them be for lights as I ordain
Their office in the firmament of heav'n
To give light on the Earth," and it was so 345
And God made two great lights, great for their use
To man, the greater to have rule by day,
The less by night altern, and made the stars,
And set them in the firmament of heav'n
To illuminate the Earth, and rule the day 350
In their vicissitude, and rule the night,
And light from darkness to divide God saw,
Surveying his great work, that it was good
For of celestial bodies first the sun
A mighty sphere he fram'd, unlightsome first, 355
Though of ethereal mould then form'd the moon
Globose, and every magnitude of stars,
And sow'd with stars the heav'n thick as a field
Of Light by far the greater part he took,
Transplanted from her cloudy shrine, and plac'd 360
In the sun's orb, made porous to receive
And drink the liquid light, firm to retain

Her gather'd beams, great palace now of Light
Hither as to their fountain other stars
Repairing, in their gold'n urns draw light, 365
And hence the morning planet gilds her horns,
By tincture or reflection they augment
Their small peculiar, though from human sight
So far remote, with diminution seen
First in his east the glorious Lamp was seen, 370
Regent of day, and all th' horizon round
Invested with bright rays, jocund to run
His longitude through heav'ns high road the gray
Dawn, and the Pleiades before him danc'd
Shedding sweet influence less bright the moon, 375
But opposite in levell'd west was set
His mirror, with full face borrowing her light
From him, for other light she needed none
In that aspect, and still that distance keeps
Till night, then in the east her turn she shines 380
Revolv'd on heav'ns great axle, and her reign
With thousand lesser lights dividual holds,
With thousand thousand stars, that then appear'd
Spangling the hemisphere then first adorn'd
With their bright luminaries that set and rose, 385
Glad Ev'ning and glad Morn crown'd the fourth day
 'And God said, "Let the waters generate
Reptile with spawn abundant, living soul
And let fowl fly above the earth, with wings
Display'd on the op'n firmament of heav'n " 390
And God created the great whales, and each
Soul living, each that crept, which plenteously
The waters generated by their kinds,
And every bird of wing after his kind,
And saw that it was good, and bless'd them, saying, 395
"Be fruitful, multiply, and in the seas,
And lakes, and running streams the waters fill,
And let the fowl be multipli'd on the earth "
Forthwith the sounds and seas, each creek and bay
With fry innumerable swarm, and shoals 400

Of fish that with their fins and shining scales
 Glide under the green wave, in sculls that oft
 Bank the mid sea part single or with mate
 Graze the sea weed their pasture, and through groves
 Of coral stray, or sporting with quick glance 405
 Show to the sun their wav'd coats dropt with gold,
 Or in their pearly shells at ease, attend
 Moist nutriment, or under rocks their food
 In jointed armour watch on smooth the seal,
 And bended dolphins play part huge of bulk 410
 Wallowing unwieldy, enormous in their gait
 Tempest the ocean there Leviathan,
 Hugest of living creatures, on the deep
 Stretcht like a promontory sleeps or swims,
 And seems a moving land, and at his gills 415
 Draws in, and at his trunk spouts out a sea
 Meanwhile the tepid caves, and fens and shores
 Their brood as numerous hatch, from the egg that soon
 Bursting with kindly rupture forth disclos'd
 Their callow young, but feather'd soon and fledge 420
 They summ'd their pens, and soaring th' air sublime
 With clang despis'd the ground, under a cloud
 In prospect, there the eagle and the stork
 On cliffs and cedar tops their eyries build
 Part loosely wing the region, part more wise 425
 In common, rang'd in figure wedge their way,
 Intelligent of seasons, and set forth
 Their airy caravan, high over seas
 Flying, and over lands with mutual wing
 Easing their flight; so steers the prudent crane 430
 Her annual voyage, borne on winds, the air
 Floats, as they pass, fann'd with unnumber'd plumes
 From branch to branch the smaller birds with song
 Solac'd the woods, and spread their painted wings
 Till ev'n, nor then the solemn nightingale 435
 Ceas'd warbling, but all night tun'd her soft lays
 Others on silver lakes and rivers bath'd
 Their downy breast, the swan with arched neck

Between her white wings mantling proudly, rows
Her state with oary feet, yet oft they quit 440
The dank, and rising on stiff pennons, tow'r
The mid aerial sky others on ground
Walk'd firm, the crested cock whose clarion sounds
The silent hours, and th' other whose gay train
Adorns him, colour'd with the florid hue 445
Of rainbows and starry eyes The waters thus
With fish replenisht, and the air with fowl,
Ev'ning and Morn solemniz'd the fifth day
'The sixth, and of creation last, arose
With ev'ning harps and matin, when God said, 450
"Let th' Earth bring forth soul living in her kind,
Cattle, and creeping things, and beast of the earth,
Each in their kind" The Earth obey'd, and straight
Op'ning her fertile womb teem'd at a birth
Innumerable living creatures, perfect forms, 455
Limb'd and full grown out of the ground up rose
As from his lair the wild beast where he wonns
In forest wild, in thicket, brake, or den,
Among the trees in pairs they rose, they walk'd
The cattle in the fields and meadows green, 460
Those rare and solitary, these in flocks
Pasturing at once, and in broad herds upsprung
The grassy clods now calv'd, now half appear'd
The tawny lion, pawing to get free
His hinder parts, then springs as broke from bonds, 465
And rampant shakes his brinded mane, the ounce,
The libbard, and the tiger, as the mole
Rising, the crumbl'd earth above them threw
In hillocks, the swift stag from under ground
Bore up his branching head scarce from his mould 470
Behemoth biggest born of earth upheav'd
His vastness fleec't the flocks and bleating rose
As plants ambiguous between sea and land
The river horse and scaly crocodile.⁴¹
At once came forth whatever creeps the ground, 475
Insect or worm, those waved their limber fans

For wings, and smallest lineaments exact
 In all the liveries deckt of summer's pride
 With spots of gold and purple, azure and green
 These as a line their long dimension drew, 480
 Streaking the ground with sinuous trace, not all
 Minims of nature, some of serpent kind
 Wondrous in length and corpulence invol'd
 Their snaky folds, and added wings First crept
 The parsimonious emmet, provident 485
 Of future, in small room large heart enclos'd,
 Pattern of just equality perhaps
 Hereafter, join'd in her popular tribes
 Of commonalty swarming next appear'd
 The female bee that feeds her husband drone 490
 Deliciously, and builds her waxen cells,
 With honey stor'd the rest are numberless,
 And thou their natures know'st, and gav'st them names,
 Needless to thee repeated, nor unknown
 The serpent, subtl'st beast of all the field, 495
 Of huge extent sometimes, with brazen eyes
 And hairy mane terrific, though to thee
 Not noxious, but obedient at thy call
 'Now Heav'n in all her glory shon, and roll'd
 Her motions, as the great First-Mover's hand 500
 First wheel'd their course, Earth in her rich attire
 Consummate lovely smil'd, air, water, earth,
 By fowl, fish, beast, was flown, was swum, was walkt
 Frequent, and of the sixth day yet remain'd,
 There wanted yet the master-work, the end 505
 Of all yet done, a creature who not prone
 And brute as other creatures, but endu'd
 With sanctity of reason, might erect
 His stature, and upright with front serene
 Govern the rest, self-knowing, and from thence 510
 Magnanimous to correspond with Heav'n,
 But grateful to acknowledge whence his good
 Descends, thither with heart and voice and eyes
 Directed in devotion, to adore

And worship God supreme, who made him chief 515
Of all his works therefore the Omnipotent
Eternal Father (for where is not he
Present?) thus to his Son audibly spake

“Let us make now Man in our image, Man
In our similitude, and let them rule 520
Over the fish and fowl of sea and air,
Beast of the field, and over all the Earth,
And every creeping thing that creeps the ground”
This said, he form’d thee, Adam, thee O Man!
Dust of the ground, and in thy nostrils breath’d 525
The breath of life, in his own image he
Created thee, in the image of God
Express, and thou becam’st a living soul
Male he created thee, but thy consort
Female for race, then bless’d mankind, and said, 530
Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the Earth,
Subdue it, and throughout dominion hold
Over fish of the sea, and fowl of the air,
And every living thing that moves on the earth
Wherever thus created, (for no place 535
Is yet distinct by name) thence, as thou know’st,
He brought thee into this delicious grove,
This garden, planted with the trees of God,
Delectable both to behold and taste,
And freely all their pleasant fruit for food 540
Gave thee, all sorts are here that all th’ Earth yields,
Variety without end, but of the tree,
Which tasted works knowledge of good and evil,
Thou may’st not, in the day thou eat’st, thou di’st,
Death is the penalty impos’d, beware, 545
And govern well thy appetite, lest Sin
Surprise thee, and her black attendant Death
‘Here finish’d he, and all that he had made
View’d, and behold all was entirely good,
So ev’n and morn accomplish’d the sixth day 550
Yet not till the Creator from his work
Desisting, though unwearied, up return’d

Up to the Heav'n of Heav'ns, his high abode,
 Thence to behold this new-created World
 Th' addition of his empire, how it shew'd 555
 In prospect from his throne, how good, how fair,
 Answering his great idea Up he rode
 Follow'd with acclamation and the sound
 Symphonious of ten thousand harps that tun'd
 Angelic harmonies. the Earth, the air 560
 Resounded (thou remember'st, for thou heardst)
 The heav'ns and all the constellations rung,
 The planets in their station list'ning stood,
 While the bright pomp ascended jubilant
 "Open, ye everlasting gates," they sung, 565
 "Open, ye Heav'ns, your living doors, let in
 The great Creator from his work return'd
 Magnificent, his six day's work, a world,
 Open and henceforth oft, for God will deign
 To visit oft the dwellings of just men, 570
 Delighted, and with frequent intercourse
 Thither will send his winged messengers,
 On errands of supernal grace" So sung
 The glorious train ascending he through Heav'n,
 That open'd wide her blazing portals, led 575
 To God's eternal house direct the way,
 A broad and ample road, whose dust is gold
 And pavement stars, as stairs to thee appear,
 Seen in the galaxy, that milky way
 Which nightly as a circling zone thou seest 580
 Powder'd with stars And now on Earth the seventh
 Ev'ning arose in Eden, for the sun
 Was set, and twilight from the east came on,
 Forerunning night, when at the holy mount
 Of Heav'ns high-seated top, th' imperial throne 585
 Of Godhead, fixt for ever firm and sure,
 The Filial Power arriv'd, and sate him down
 With his great Father, for he also went
 Invisible, yet stay'd (such privilege
 Hath Omnipresence) and the work ordain'd, 590

Author and end of all things, and from work
Now resting, bless'd and hallow'd the sev'nth day,
As resting on that day from all his work,
But not in silence holy kept, the harp
Had work and rested not, the solemn pipe, 595
And dulcimer, all organs of sweet stop,
All sounds on fret by string or golden wire
Temper'd soft tunings, intermixt with voice
Choral or unison of incense clouds
Fuming from golden censers hid the mount 600
Creation and the six days' acts they sung
 "Great are thy works, Jehovah! infinite
Thy power, what thought can measure thee or tongue
Relate thee? greater now in thy return
Than from the giant angels, thee that day 605
Thy thunders magnifi'd, but to create
Is greater than created to destroy
Who can impair thee, mighty King, or bound
Thy empire? easily the proud attempt
Of spirits apostate and their counsels vain 610
Thou hast repell'd, while impiously they thought
Thee to diminish, and from thee withdraw
The number of thy worshippers Who seeks
To lessen thee, against his purpose serves
To manifest the more thy might his evil 615
Thou usest, and from thence creat'st more good
Witness this new-made World, another Heav'n
From Heaven-gate not far, founded in view
On the clear hyaline, the glassy sea,
Of amplitude almost immense, with stars 620
Numerous, and every star perhaps a world
Of destined habitation, but thou know'st
Their seasons among these the seat of men,
Earth with her nether ocean circumfus'd,
Their pleasant dwelling-place Thrice happy men, 625
And sons of men, whom God hath thus advanc't,
Created in his image, there to dwell
And worship him, and in reward to rule

Over his works, on earth, in sea, or air,
And multiply a race of worshippers 630
Holy and just thrice happy if they know
Their happiness, and persevere upright”

‘So sung they, and the empyrean rung,
With hallelujahs thus was sabbath kept
And thy request think now fulfill’d, that ask’d 635
How first this world and face of things began,
And what before thy memoir was done
From the beginning, that posterity
Inform’d by thee might know, if else thou seek’st
Aught, not surpassing human measure, say’ 640

BOOK VIII

THE ARGUMENT

Adam enquires concerning celestial motions, is doubtfully answered, and exhorted to search rather things more worthy of knowledge Adam assents, and still desirous to detain Raphael, relates to him what he remembered since his own creation, his placing in Paradise, his talk with God concerning solitude and fit society, his first meeting and nuptials with Eve, his discourse with the angel thereupon, who, after admonitions repeated departs

THE angel ended, and in Adam's ear
So charming left his voice, that he awhile
Thought him still speaking, still stood fixt to hear,
Then, as new-wak't, thus gratefully repli'd
 'What thanks sufficient, or what recompense 5
Equal have I to render thee, divme
Historian? who thus largely hast allay'd
The thirst I had of knowledge, and voutsaf't
This friendly condescension to relate
Things else by me unsearchable, now heard 10
With wonder, but delight, and, as is due,
With glory attributed to the high
Creator, something yet of doubt remains,
Which only thy solution can resolve
When I behold this goodly frame, this World 15
Of heav'n and Earth consisting, and compute
Their magnitudes, this Earth, a spot, a grain,
An atom, with the firmament compar'd,
And all her number'd stars, that seem to roll
Spaces incomprehensible (for such 20

Their distance argues, and their swift return
 Diurnal) merely to officiate light
 Round this opacous Earth, this punctual spot,
 One day and night, in all their vast survey
 Useless besides, reasoning, I oft admire, 25
 How Nature wise and frugal could commit
 Such disproportions, with superfluous hand
 So many nobler bodies to create,
 Greater so manifold to this one use,
 For aught appears, and on their orbs impose 30
 Such restless revolution day by day
 Repeated, while the sedentary Earth,
 That better might with far less compass move,
 Serv'd by more noble than herself, attains
 Her end without least motion, and receives, 35
 As tribute such a sumless journey brought
 Of incorporeal speed, her warmth and light,
 Speed, to describe whose swiftness number fails'

So spake our sire, and by his count'nance seem'd
 Ent'ring on studious thoughts abstruse, which Eve 40
 Perceiving where she sat retir'd in sight,
 With lowliness majestic from her seat,
 And grace that won who saw to wish her stay,
 Rose, and went forth among her fruits and flow'rs,
 To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom, 45
 Her nursery, they at her coming sprung
 And toucht by her fair tendance gladlier grew
 Yet went she not, as not with such discourse
 Delighted, or not capable her ear
 Of what was high such pleasure she reserv'd, 50
 Adam relating, she sole auditress,
 Her husband the relater she preferr'd
 Before the angel, and of him to ask
 Chose rather, he, she knew would intermix
 Grateful digressions, and solve high dispute 55
 With conjugal caresses, from his lip
 Not words alone pleas'd her O when meet now
 Such pairs, in love and mutual honour join'd?

With goddess-like demeanour forth she went,
Not unattended, for on her as queen 60
A pomp of winning Graces waited still,
And from about her shot darts of desire
Into all eyes to wish her still in sight
And Raphael now, to Adam's doubt propos'd
Benevolent and facile thus repli'd 65
 'To ask or search I blame thee not, for heav'n
Is as the book of God before thee set,
Wherein to read his wondrous works, and learn
His seasons, hours, or days, or months, or years
This to attain, whether heav'n move or Earth, 70
Imports not, if thou reck'n right, the rest
From man or angel the great Architect
Did wisely to conceal, and not divulge
His secrets to be scann'd by them who ought
Rather admire, or if they list to try 75
Conjecture, he his fabric of the heav'n's
Hath left to their disputes, perhaps to move
His laughter at their quaint opinions wide
Hereafter, when they come to model heav'n
And calculate the stars, how they will wield 80
The mighty frame, how build, unbuild, contrive
To save appearances, how gird the sphere
With centric and eccentric scribbl'd o'er,
Cycle and epicycle, orb in orb
Already by thy reasoning this I guess, 85
Who art to lead thy offspring, and supposest
That bodies bright and greater should not serve
The less not bright, nor Heav'n such journies run,
Earth sitting still, when she alone receives
The benefit consider first, that great 90
O! bright infers not excellence the Earth
Though, in comparison of Heav'n, so small,
Nor glistening, may of solid good contain
More plenty than the sun that barren shines,
Whose virtue on itself works no effect, IX 110 95
But in the fruitful Earth, there first receiv'd

His beams, unactive else, their vigour find
 Yet not to Earth are those bright luminaries
 Officious, but to thee Earth's habitant
 And for the heaven's wide circuit, let it speak 100
 The Maker's high magnificence, who built
 So spacious, and his line stretcht out so far,
 That Man may know he dwells not in his own,
 An edifice too large for him to fill,
 Lodg'd in a small partition, and the rest 105
 Ordain'd for uses to his Lord best known
 The swiftness of those circles attribute,
 Though numberless, to his omnipotence,
 That to corporeal substances could add
 Speed almost spiritual me thou think'st not slow 110
 Who since the morning hour set out from Heav'n
 Where God resides, and ere mid-day arriv'd
 In Eden, distance inexpressible
 By numbers that have name But this I urge,
 Admitting motion in the heav'ns, to show 115
 Invalid that which thee to doubt it mov'd,
 Not that I so affirm, though so it seem
 To thee who hast thy dwelling here on Earth
 God, to remove his ways from human sense,
 Plac'd heav'n from Earth so far, that earthly sight, 120
 If it presume, might err in things too high,
 And no advantage gain What if the sun
 Be centre to the world, and other stars
 By his attractive virtue, and their own
 Incited, dance about him various' rounds? 125
 Their wandring course now high, now low, then hid,
 Progressive, retrograde, or standing still,
 In six'thou seest, and what if sev'nth to these
 The planet Earth, so steadfast though she seem,
 Insensibly three different motions move? 130
 Which else to several spheres thou must ascribe,
 Mov'd contrary with thwart obliquities,
 Or save the sun his labour, and that swift
 Nocturnal and diurnal rhomb suppos'd,

Invisible else above all stars, the wheel 135
Of day and night, which needs not thy belief,
If Earth industrious of herself fetch day
Travelling east, and with her part averse
From the sun's beam meet night, her other part
Still luminous by his ray What if that light 140
Sent from her through the wide transpicious air,
To the terrestrial moon be as a star
Enlightning her by day, as she by night
This Earth? reciprocal, if land be there,
Fields and inhabitants her spots thou seest 145
As clouds, and clouds may rain, and rain produce
Fruits in her soft'nd soil, for some to eat
Allotted there, and other suns perhaps
With their attendant moons thou wilt descry
Communicating male and female light, 150
Which two great sexes animate the world,
Stor'd in each orb perhaps with some that live
For such vast room in nature unpossess
By living soul, desert and desolate,
Only to shine, yet scarce to contribute 155
Each orb a glimpse of light, convey'd so far
Down to this habitable, which returns
Light back to them, is obvious to dispute
But whether thus these things, or whether not,
Whether the Sun predominant in heav'n 160
Rise on the Earth, or Earth rise on the Sun,
He from the east his flaming road begin,
Or she from west her silent course advance
With inoffensive pace that spinning sleeps
On her soft axle, while she paces ev'n, 165
And bears thee soft with the smooth air along,
Solicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
Leave them to God above, him serve and fear,
Of other^e creatures, as him pleases best,
Wherever plac'd, let him dispose joy thou 170
In what he gives to thee, this Paradise
And thy fair Eve, heav'n is for thee too high

To know what passes there, be lowly wise
Think only what concerns thee and thy being,
Dream not of other worlds, what creatures there 175
Live, in what state, condition, or degree,
Contented that thus far hath been reveal'd,
Not of Earth only, but of highest Heav'n'

To whom thus Adam, clear'd of doubt, repli'd
'How fully hast thou satisfi'd me, pure 180
Intelligence of Heav'n, angel serene,
And freed from intricacies, taught to live
The easiest way, nor with perplexing thoughts
To interrupt the sweet of life, from which
God hath bid dwell far off all anxious cares, 185
And not molest us, unless we ourselves
Seek them with wandring thoughts, and notions vain
But apt the mind or fancy is to rove
Unchecked, and of her loving is no end,
Till warn'd, or by experience taught, she learn, 190
That not to know at large of things remote
From use, obscure and subtle, but to know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the prime wisdom, what is more, is fume,
Or emptiness, or fond impertinence, 195
And renders us, in things that most concern
Unpractis'd, unprepar'd, and still to seek
Therefore, from this high pitch let us descend
A lower flight, and speak of things at hand
Useful, whence haply mention may arise 200
Of something not unseasonable to ask
By sufferance, and thy wonted favour deign'd
Thee I have heard relating what was done
Ere my remembrance now hear me relate
My story, which perhaps thou hast not heard, 205
And day is not yet spent, till then thou seest
How subtly to detain thee I devise,
Inviting thee to hear while I relate,
Fond, were it not in hope of thy reply,
For while I sit with thee, I seem in Heav'n, 210

And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear
Than fruits of palm-tree pleasantest to thirst
And hunger both, from labour, at the hour
Of sweet repast, they satiate, and soon fill,
Though pleasant, but thy words with grace divine 215
Imbu'd, bring to their sweetness no satiety'

To whom thus Raphael answer'd heav'nly meek
'Nor are thy lips ungraceful, sire of men,
Nor tongue ineloquent, for God on thee
Abundantly his gifts hath also pour'd, 220
Inward and outward both, his image fair -
Speaking or mute all comeliness and grace
Attends thee, and each word, each motion forms,
Nor less think we in Heav'n of thee on Earth
Than of our fellow-servant, and inquire 225
Gladly into the ways of God with Man
For God we see hath honour'd thee, and set
On Man his equal love say therefore on,
For I that day was absent, as befel,
Bound on a voyage uncouth and obscure, 230
Far on excursion toward the gates of Hell,
Squar'd in full legion (such command we had)
To see that none thence issu'd forth a spy,
Or enemy, while God was in his work,
Lest he incens'd at such eruption bold, 235
Destruction with creation might have mixt
Not that they durst without his leave attempt,
But us he sends upon his high behests
For state, as sovran King, and to inure
Our prompt obedience Fast we found, fast shut 240
The dismal gates, and barricado'd strong,
But long ere our approaching heard within
Noise, other than the sound of dance or song,
Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage
Glad we return'd up to the coasts of light 245
Ere sabbath ev'ning so we had in charge
But thy relation now, for I attend,
Pleas'd with thy words no less than thou with mine'

So spake the godlike Power, and thus our sire
'For Man to tell how human life began 250
Is hard, for who himself beginning knew?
Desire with thee still longer to converse
Induc'd me As new wak't from soundest sleep
Soft on the flow'ry herb I found me laid
In balmy sweat, which with his beams the sun 255
Soon dri'd, and on the reeking moisture fed
Straight toward heav'n my wondring eyes I turn'd,
And gaz'd awhile the ample sky, till rais'd
By quick instinctive motion up I sprung,
As thitherward endeavouring, and upright 260
Stood on my feet, about me round I saw
Hill, dale, and shady woods, and sunny plains,
And liquid lapse of murmuring streams, by these,
Creatures that liv'd, and mov'd, and walk'd, or flew,
Birds on the branches warbling, all things smil'd, 265
With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd
Myself I then perus'd, and limb by limb
Survey'd, and sometimes went, and sometimes ran
With supple joints, and lively vigour led
But who I was, or where, or from what cause, 270
Knew not, to speak I tri'd, and forthwith spake,
My tongue obey'd, and readily could name
Whate'er I saw "Thou Sun," said I, "fair light,
And thou enlighten'd Earth, so fresh and gay,
Ye hills and dales, ye rivers, woods, and plains, 275
And ye that live and move, fair creatures, tell,
Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here?
Not of myself, by some great Maker then,
In goodness and in power pre-eminent,
Tell me, how I may know him, how adore, 280
From whom I have that thus I move and live,
And feel that I am happier than I know"
While thus I call'd, and stray'd I knew not whither,
From where I first drew air, and first beheld
This happy light, when answer none return'd, 285
On a green shady bank profuse of flow'rs,

Pensive I sat me down, there gentle sleep
First found me, and with soft oppression seiz'd
My drowsed sense, untroubl'd, though I thought
I then was passing to my former state 290
Insensible, and forthwith to dissolve,
When suddenly stood at my head a dream,
Whose inward apparition gently mov'd
My fancy to believe I yet had being,
And liv'd One came, methought, of shape divine, 295
And said, "Thy mansion wants thee, Adam, rise,
First Man, of men innumerable ordain'd
First father, call'd by thee I come thy guide
To the garden of bliss, thy seat prepar'd"
So saying, by the hand he took me rais'd, 300
And over fields and waters, as in air
Smooth sliding without step, last led me up
A woody mountain, whose high top was plain,
A circuit wide, enclos'd, with goodliest trees
Planted, with walks, and bowers, that what I saw 305
Of Earth before scarce pleasant seem'd Each tree
Load'n with fairest fruit that hung to the eye
Tempting, stirr'd in me sudden appetite
To pluck and eat, whereat I wak'd, and found
Before mine eyes all real, as the dream 310
Had lively shadow'd here had new begun
My wandering, had not he who was my guide
Up hither, from among the trees appear'd,
Presence divine Rejoicing, but with awe
In adoration at his feet I fell 315
Submiss he rear'd me, and "whom thou sought'st I am,"
Said mildly, "Author of all this thou seest
Above, or round about thee, or beneath
This Paradise I give thee, count it thine
To till and keep, and of the fruit to eat 320
Of every tree that in the garden grows
Eat freely with glad heart, fear here no dearth
But of the tree, whose operation brings
Knowledge of good and ill, which I have set

The pledge of thy obedience and thy faith, 325
 Amid the garden by the tree of Life,
 Remember what I warn thee, shun to taste,
 And shun the bitter consequence for know,
 The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command
 Transgiest, inevitably thou shalt die, 330
 From that day mortal, and this happy state
 Shalt lose, expell'd from hence into a world
 Of woe and sorrow" Sternly he pronounc'd
 The rigid interdiction, which resounds
 Yet dreadful in mine ear, though in my choice 335
 Not to incur, but soon his clear aspect
 Return'd and gracious purpose thus renew'd
 "Not only these fair bounds, but all the Earth
 To thee and to thy race, I give, as lords
 Possess it, and all things that therein live, 340
 Or live in sea, or air, beast, fish, and fowl
 In sign whereof each bird and beast behold
 After their kinds, I bring them to receive
 From thee their names, and pay thee fealty
 With low subjection, understand the same 345
 Of fish within their watry residence,
 Not hither summon'd, since they cannot change
 Their element to draw the thinner air"
 As thus he spake, each bird and beast behold
 Approaching two and two, these cowering low 350
 With blandishment, each bird stoop'd on his wing
 I nam'd them, as they pass'd, and understood
 Their nature, with such knowledge God endu'd
 My sudden apprehension, but in these
 I found not what methought I wanted still, 355
 And to the Heav'nly Vision thus presum'd
 "O by what name, for thou above all these,
 Above mankind, or aught than mankind higher,
 Surpaskest far my naming, how may I
 Adore thee, Author of this universe, 360
 And all this good to Man? for whose well being
 So amply, and with hands so liberal

Thou hast provided all things but with me
I see not who partakes In solitude
What happiness? who can enjoy alone? 365
Or all enjoying, what contentment find?"
Thus I presumptuous, and the Vision bright,
As with a smile more bright'nd, thus repli'd
"What call'st thou solitude? is not the Earth
With various living creatures, and the air 370
Replenisht, and all these at thy command
To come and play before thee? know'st thou not
Their language, and their ways? they also know,
And reason not contemptibly, with these
Find pastime, and bear rule, thy realm is large" 375
So spake the universal Lord, and seem'd
So ordering, I, with leave of speech implor'd
And humble deprecation thus repli'd
"Let not my words offend thee, Heav'nly Power,
My Maker, be propitious while I speak 380
Hast thou not made me here thy substitute,
And these inferior far beneath me set?
Among unequals what society
Can sort, what harmony, or true delight?
Which must be mutual, in proportion due 385
Giv'n, and receiv'd, but in disparity
The one intense, the other still remiss
Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove
Tedious alike of fellowship I speak
Such as I seek, fit to participate 390
All rational delight, wherein the brute
Cannot be human consort, they rejoice
Each with their kind, lion with lioness,
So fitly them in pairs thou hast combin'd,
Much less can bird with beast, or fish with fowl, 395
So well converse, nor with the ox the ape,
Worse then can Man with beast, and least of all"
Whereto th' Almighty answer'd, not displeas'd
"A nice and subtle happiness I see
Thou to thyself propos'est, in the choice 400

Of thy associates, Adam, and will taste
No pleasure, though in pleasure, solitary
What think'st thou then of me, and this my state?
Seem I to thee sufficiently possess
Of happiness, or not? who am alone 405
From all eternity, for none I know
Second to me or like, equal much less
How have I then with whom to hold converse
Save with the creatures which I made, and those
To me inferior, infinite descents 410
Beneath what other creatures are to thee?"
'He ceas'd, I lowly answer'd "To attain
The highth and depth of thy eternal ways
All human thoughts come short, Supreme of things,
Thou in thyself art perfect, and in thee 415
Is no deficiency found, not so is Man,
But in degree, the cause of his desire
By conversation with his like, to help
Or solace his defects No need that thou
Shouldst propagate, already infinite, 420
And through all numbers absolute, though One,
But Man by number is to manifest
His single imperfection, and beget
Like of his like, his image multipli'd,
In unity defective, which requires 425
Collateral love, and dearest amity
Thou in thy secrecy although alone,
Best with thyself accompanied, seek'st not
Social communication, yet so pleas'd,
Canst raise thy creature to what height thou wilt 430
Of union or communion, deifi'd,
I by conversing cannot these erect
From prone, nor in their ways complacence find"
Thus I embolden'd spake, and freedom us'd
Permissive, and acceptance found, which gain'd 435
This answer from the gracious Voice Divine
"Thus far to try thee, Adam, I was pleas'd,
And find thee knowing not of beasts alone,

Which thou hast rightly nam'd, but of thyself,
Expressing well the spirit within thee free, 440
My image, not imparted to the brute,
Whose fellowship therefore unmeet for thee
Good reason was thou freely shouldst dislike,
And be so minded still, I, ere thou spok'st,
Knew it not good for Man to be alone, 445
And no such company as then thou saw'st
Intended thee, for trial only brought,
To see how thou couldst judge of fit and meet
What next I bring shall please thee, be assur'd,
Thy likeness, thy fit help, thy other self, 450
Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire "

'He ended, or I heard no more, for now
My earthly by his Heav'nly overpower'd,
Which it had long stood under, strain'd to the highth
In that celestial colloquy sublime, 455
As with an object that excels the sense,
Dazzl'd and spent, sunk down, and sought repair
Of sleep, which instantly fell on me, call'd
By Nature as in aid, and clos'd mine eyes
Mine eyes he clos'd, but op'n left the cell 460
Of Fancy my internal sight, by which
Abstract as in a trance methought I saw,
Though sleeping, where I lay, and saw the shape
Still glorious before whom awake I stood,
Who stooping op'nd my left side, and took 465
From thence a rib, with cordial spirits warm,
And life-blood streaming fresh, wide was the wound,
But suddenly with flesh fill'd up, and heal'd
The rib he form'd and fashion'd with his hands,
Under his forming hands a creature grew, 470
Manlike, but different sex, so lovely fair,
That what seem'd fair in all the world, seem'd now
Mean, or in her summ'd up, in her contain'd
And in her looks, which from that time infus'd
Sweetness into my heart, unfelt before, 475
And into all things from her air inspir'd

The spirit of love and amorous delight
 She disappear'd, and left me dark, I wak'd
 To find her, or for ever to deplore
 Her loss, and other pleasures all abjure 480
 When out of hope, behold her, not far off,
 Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd
 With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow
 To make her amiable on she came,
 Led by her Heav'nly Maker, though unseen, 485
 And guided by his voice, nor uninform'd
 Of nuptial sanctity, and marriage rites
 Grace was in all her steps, Heav'n in her eye,
 In every gesture dignity and love
 I overjoy'd could not forbear aloud 490
 "This turn hath made amends, thou hast fulfill'd
 Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign!
 Giver of all things fair, but fairest this
 Of all thy gifts, nor enviest I now see
 Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, myself 495
 Before me, Woman is her name, of Man
 Extracted for this cause he shall forego
 Father and mother, and to his wife adhere,
 And they shall be one flesh, one heart, one soul"
 'She heard me thus, and though divinely brought, 500
 Yet innocence, and virgin modesty,
 Her virtue and the conscience of her worth,
 That would be woo'd, and not unsought be won,
 Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retir'd,
 The more desirable, or to say all, 505
 Nature herself, though pure of sinful thought,
 Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd,
 I follow'd her, she what was honour knew,
 And with obsequious majesty approv'd
 My pleaded reason To the nuptial bow'r 510
 I led her blushing like the morn all Heav'n,
 And happy constellations on that hour
 Shed their selectest influence, the Earth
 Gave sign of gratulation, and each hill,

Joyous the birds, fresh gales and gentle airs 515
Whisper'd it to the woods, and from their wings
Flung rose, flung odours from the spicy shrub,
Disporting, till the amorous bird of night
Sung spousal, and bid haste the evening star
On his hill top, to light the bridal lamp 520
 'Thus I have told thee all my state, and brought
My story to the sum of earthly bliss
Which I enjoy, and must confess to find
In all things else delight indeed, but such
As us'd or not, works in the mind no change, 525
Nor vehement desire, these delicacies
I mean of taste, sight, smell, herbs, fruits, and flow'rs,
Walks, and the melody of birds, but here
Far otherwise, transported I behold,
Transported touch, here passion first I felt, 530
Commotion strange, in all enjoyments else
Superior and unmov'd, here only weak
Against the charm of Beauty's powerful glance
Or Nature fail'd in me, and left some part
•Not proof enough such object to sustain, 535
Or from my side subducting, took perhaps
More than enough, at least on her bestow'd
Too much of ornament, in outward show
Elaborate, of inward less exact
For well I understand in the prime end 540
Of Nature, her th' inferior, in the mind
And inward faculties, which most excel,
In outward also her resembling less
His image who made both, and less expressing
The character of that dominion giv'n 545
O'er other creatures, yet when I approach
Her loveliness, so absolute she seems
And in herself complete, so well to know
Her own, that what she wills to do or say,
Seems wisest, virtuousest, discreetest, best, 550
All higher knowledge in her presence falls
Degraded, Wisdom in discourse with her

Loses discount'nanc't, and like Folly shows,
 Authority and Reason on her wait,
 As one intended first, not after made 555
 Occasionally, and to consummate all,
 Greatness of mind and Nobleness their seat
 Build in her loveliest, and create an awe
 About her, as a guard angelic plac't

To whom the angel with contracted brow 560
 'Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part,
 Do thou but thine, and be not diffident
 Of Wisdom, she deserts thee not, if thou
 Dismiss not her, when most thou need'st her nigh,
 By attributing overmuch to things 565
 Less excellent, as thou thyself perceiv'st
 For what admir'st thou, what transports thee so?
 An outside? fair no doubt, and worthy well
 Thy cherishing, thy honouring, and thy love,
 Not thy subjection weigh with her thyself, 570
 Then value oft-times nothing profits more
 Than self-esteem, grounded on just and right
 Well manag'd, of that skill the more thou know'st
 The more she will acknowledge thee her head,
 And to realities yield all her shows 575
 Made so adorn for thy delight the more,
 So awful, that with honour thou may'st love
 Thy mate, who sees when thou art seen least wise
 But if the sense of touch whereby mankind
 Is propagated seem such dear delight 580
 Beyond all other, think the same voutsaf't
 To cattle and each beast, which would not be
 To them made common and divulg'd, if aught
 Therein enjoy'd were worthy to subdue
 The soul of Man, or passion in him move. 585
 What higher in her society thou find'st
 Attractive, human, rational, love still,
 In loving thou dost well, in passion not,
 Wherein true Love consists not, love refines
 The thoughts, and heart enlarges, hath his seat 590

In reason, and is judicious, is the scale
 By which to Heav'nly love thou may'st ascend,
 Not sunk in carnal pleasure, for which cause
 Among the beasts no mate for thee was found'

To whom thus half abash't Adam repli'd 595

'Neither her outside form'd so fair, nor aught
 In procreation common to all kinds,
 (Though higher of the genial bed by far,
 And with mysterious reverence I deem)
 So much delights me as those graceful acts, 600

Those thousand decencies that daily flow
 From all her words and actions mixt with love
 And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd
 Union of mind, or in us both one soul,
 Harmony to behold in wedded pair 605

570 More grateful than harmonious sound to the ear
 Yet these subject not, I to thee disclose
 What inward thence I feel, not therefore foil'd,
 Who meet with various objects from the sense
 Variously representing, yet still free 610
 Approve the best, and follow what I approve
 To love thou blam'st me not, for Love thou say'st
 Leads up to Heav'n, is both the way and guide,
 Bear with me then, if lawful what I ask,
 Love not the Heav'nly spirits, and how their love 615
 Express they? by looks only, or do they mix
 Irradiance, virtual or immediate touch?'

To whom the angel with a smile that glow'd
 Celestial rosy red, Love's proper hue, ,
 Answer'd 'Let it suffice thee that thou know'st 620
 Us happy, and without Love no happiness
 Whatever pure thou in the body enjoy'st,
 (And pure thou wert created) we enjoy
 In eminence, and obstacle find none ,
 Of membrane, joint, or limb, exclusive bars,
 Easier than air with air, if spirits embrace,
 Total they mix, union of pure with pure
 Desiring, nor restrain'd conveyance need

As flesh to mix with flesh or soul with soul
But I can now no more, the parting sun 630
Beyond the Earth's Green Cape and Verdant Isles
Hesperian sets, my signal to depart
Be strong, live happy, and love, but first of all
Him whom to love is to obey, and keep
His great command, take heed lest passion sway 635
Thy judgment to do aught, which else free will
Would not admit, thine and of all thy sons
The weal or woe in thee is plac't, beware
I in thy persevering shall rejoice,
And all the blest stand fast, to stand or fall 640
Free in thine own arbitrement it lies
Perfet within, no outward aid require,
And all temptation to transgress repel'
So saying, he arose, whom Adam thus
Follow'd with benediction 'Since to part, 645
Go heavenly guest, ethereal messenger,
Sent from whose sovran goodness I adore
Gentle to me and affable hath been
Thy condescension, and shall be honour'd ever
With grateful memory thou to mankind 650
Be good and friendly still, and oft return'
So parted they, the angel up to Heav'n
From the thick shade, and Adam to his bower

BOOK IX

THE ARGUMENT

Satan having compassed the earth, with meditated guile returns as a mist, by night into Paradise, and enters into the serpent sleeping Adam and Eve in the morning go forth to their labours, which Eve proposes to divide in several places, each labouring apart Adam consents not, alleging the danger, lest that Enemy, of whom they were forewarned, should attempt her found alone Eve loath to be thought not circumspect or firm enough, urges her going apart, the rather desirous to make trial of her strength, Adam at last yields The Serpent finds her alone, his subtle approach, first gazing, then speaking, with much flattery extolling Eve above all other creatures Eve wondering to hear the Serpent speak, asks how he attained to human speech and such understanding not till now the Serpent answers, that by tasting of a certain tree in the garden he attained both to speech and reason, till then void of both Eve requires him to bring her to that tree, and finds it to be the tree of Knowledge forbidden The Serpent now grown bolder, with many wiles and arguments induces her at length to eat, she pleased with the taste, deliberates awhile whether to impart thereof to Adam or not, at last brings him of the fruit, relates what persuaded her to eat thereof Adam, at first amazed, but perceiving her lost, resolves through vehemence of love to perish with her, and, extenuating the trespass, eats also of the fruit The effects thereof in them both, they seek to cover their nakedness, then fall to variance and accusation of one another

No more of talk where God or angel guest
With Man,*as with his friend, familiar us'd
To sit indulgent, and with him partake
Rural repast, permitting him the while
*Venial discourse unblam'd I now must change

These notes to tragic, foul distrust, and breach
 Disloyal on the part of Man, revolt,
 And disobedience on the part of Heav'n
 Now alienated, distance and distaste,
 Anger and just rebuke, and judgment giv'n, 10
 That brought into this world a world of woe,
 Sin and her shadow Death, and Misery,
 Death's harbinger sad task, yet argument
 Not less but more heroic than the wrath
 Of stern Achilles on his foe pursu'd 15
 Thrice fugitive about Troy wall, or rage
 Of Turnus for Lavinia disespous'd,
 Or Neptune's ire or Juno's, that so long
 Perplex'd the Greek and Cytherea's son,
 If answerable style I can obtain 20
 Of my celestial patroness, who deigns
 Her nightly visitation unimplor'd,
 And dictates to me slumb'ring, or inspires
 Easy my unpremeditated verse
 Since first this subject for heroic song 25
 Pleas'd me long choosing, and beginning late,
 Not sedulous by nature to indite
 Wars, hitherto the only argument
 Heroic deem'd, chief mast'ry to dissect
 With long and tedious havoc, fabled knights, 30
 In battles feign'd, the better fortitude
 Of patience and heroic martyrdom
 Unsung, or to describe races and games,
 Or tilting furniture, emblazon'd shields,
 Impreses quaint, caparisons and steeds, 35
 Bases and tinsel trappings, gorgeous knights
 At joust and tournament, then marshall'd feast
 Served up in hall with sewers, and seneschals,
 The skill of artifice or office mean,
 Not that which justly gives heroic name 40
 To person or to poem Me of these
 Nor skill'd nor studious, higher argument
 Remains, sufficient of itself to raise

That name, unless an age too late, or co'd
Climate, or years damp my intended wing 45
Deprest, and much they may, if all be mine,
Not hers who brings it nightly to my ear

The sun was sunk, and after him the star
Of Hesperus, whose office is to bring
Twilight upon the Earth, short arbiter 50
Twixt day and night, and now from end to end
Night's hemisphere had veil'd the horizon round
When Satan who late fled before the threats
Of Gabriel out of Eden, now improv'd
In meditated fraud and malice, bent 55

On Man's destruction, maugre what might hap --
Of heavier on himself, fearless return'd
By night he fled, and at midnight return'd
From compassing the Earth, cautious of day,
Since Uriel regent of the sun descri'd 60

His entrance, and forewarn'd the cherubim
That kept their watch, thence full of anguish driv'n,
The space of seven continu'd nights he rode
With darkness, thrice the equinoctial line
He circl'd, four times cross'd the car of night 65
From pole to pole, traversing each colure,
On the eighth return'd, and on the coast averse
From entrance or cherubic watch, by stealth
Found unsuspected way There was a place,
Now not, (though Sin, not Time, first wrought the change,) 70
Where Tigris at the foot of Paradise

Into a gulf shot under ground, till part
Rose up a fountain by the tree of Life,
In with the river sunk, and with it rose
Satan involved in rising mist, then sought 75
Where to he hid sea he had searcht and land
From Eden over Pontus, and the pool

Mæotis, up beyond the river Ob,
Downward as far antarctic, and in length
West from Orontes to the ocean barr'd 80
At Darien, thence to the land where flows

Ganges and Indus Thus the orb he roam'd
 With narrow search, and with inspection deep
 Consider'd every creature, which of all
 Most opportune might serve his wiles, and found 85
 The serpent subtlest beast of all the field
 Him after long debate, irresolute
 Of thoughts revolv'd, his final sentence chose
 Fit vessel, fittest imp of fraud, in whom
 To enter, and his dark suggestions hide 90
 From sharpest sight for in the wily snake
 Whatever sleights none would suspicious mark,
 As from his wit and native subtlety
 Proceeding, which in other beasts observ'd
 Doubt might beget of diabolic pow'r, 95
 Active within beyond the sense of brute
 Thus he resolv'd, but first from inward grief
 His bursting passion into plants thus pour'd
 'O Earth' how like to Heav'n, if not preferr'd
 More justly, seat worthier of gods, as built 100
 With second thoughts, reforming what was old
 For what God after better worse would build?
 Terrestrial Heav'n, danc't round by other Heav'ns
 That shine, yet bear their bright officious lamps,
 Light above light, for thee alone, as seems, 105
 In thee concentring all their precious beams
 Of sacred influence as God in Heav'n
 Is centre, yet extends to all, so thou
 Centring receiv'st from all those orbs, in thee,
 Not in themselves, all their known virtue appears 110
 Productive in herb, plant, and nobler birth
 Of creatures animate with gradual life
 Of growth, sense, reason, all summ'd up in Man
 With what delight could I have walk't thee round,
 If I could joy in aught, sweet interchange 115
 Of hill, and valley, rivers, woods and plains,
 Now land, now sea, and shores with forest crown'd,
 Rocks, dens, and caves, but I in none of these
 Find place or refuge, and the more I see

Pleasures about me, so much more I feel 120
Torment within me, as from the hateful siege
Of contraries, all good to me becomes
Bane, and in Heav'n much worse would be my state
But neither here seek I, no nor in Heav'n
To dwell, unless by masting Heav'n's Supreme, 125
Nor hope to be myself less miserable
By what I seek, but others to make such
As I, though thereby worse to me redound,
For only in destroying I find ease
To my relentless thoughts, and him destroy'd, 130
Or won to what may work his utter loss,
For whom all this was made, all this will soon
Follow, as to him linkt in weal or woe,
In woe then, that destruction wide may range
To me shall be the glory sole among 135
The infernal Powers, in one day to have marr'd,
What he Almighty styl'd, six nights and days
Continu'd making, and who knows how long
Before had been contriving, though perhaps
Not longer than since I in one night freed 140
From servitude inglorious well nigh half
Th' angelic name, and thinner left the throng
Of his adorers he to be aveng'd,
And to repair his numbers thus impair'd,
Whether such virtue spent of old now fail'd 145
More angels to create, if they at least
Are his created, or to spite us more, }
Determin'd to advance into our room
A creature form'd of earth, and him endow,
Exalted from so base original 150
With Heav'nly spoils, our spoils what he decreed
He effected, Man he made, and for him built
Magnificent this world, and Earth his seat,
Him Lord pronounc'd, and, O indignity!
Subjected to his service angel wings, 155
And flaming ministers to watch and tend
Their earthy charge of these the vigilance

I dread, and to elude, thus wrapt in mist
Of midnight vapour glide obscure, and pry
In every bush and brake, where hap may find 160
The serpent sleeping, in whose mazy folds
To hide me, and the dark intent I bring
O foul descent! that I who erst contended
With gods to sit the highest, am now constrain'd
Into a beast, and mixt with bestial slime, 165
This essence to incarnate and imbrute,
That to the height of deity aspir'd,
But what will not ambition and revenge
Descend to? who aspires, must down as low
As high he soar'd, obnoxious first or last 170
To basest things Revenge, at first though sweet,
Bitter ere long back on itself recoils,
Let it, I reck not, so it light well aim'd,
Since higher I fall short,) on him who next
Provokes my envy, this new favourite 175
Of Heav'n, this Man of clay, son of despite,
Whom us the more to spite his Maker rais'd
From dust spite then with spite is best repaid'
So saying, through each thicket dank or dry,
Like a black mist low creeping, he held on 180
His midnight search, where soonest he might find
The serpent him fast sleeping soon he found
In labyrinth of many a round self-roll'd,
His head the midst, well stor'd with subtle wiles,
Not yet in horrid shade or dismal den, 185
Nor nocent yet, but on the grassy herb
Fearless unfear'd he slept In at his mouth
The Devil enter'd, and his brutal sense,
In heart or head, possessing soon inspir'd
With act intelligential, but his sleep 190
Disturb'd not, waiting close th' approach of morn
Now when as sacred light began to dawn
In Eden on the humid flow'rs, that breath'd
Their morning incense, when all things that breathe
From th' Earth's great altar send up silent praise

To the Creator, and his nostrils fill
 With grateful smell, forth came the human pair
 And join'd their vocal worship to the quire
 Of creatures wanting voice, that done, partake
 The season, prime for sweetest scents and airs 200
 Then commune how that day they best may ply
 Their growing work for much their work outgrew
 The hands despatch of two gardening so wide
 And Eve first to her husband thus began

‘Adam, well may we labour still to dress 205
 This garden, still to tend plant, herb and flow’r,
 Our pleasant task enjoin’d, but till more hands
 Aid us, the work under our labour grows
 Luxurious by restraint, what we by day
 Lop overgrown, or prune, or prop, or bind, 210
 One night or two with wanton growth derides
 Tending to wild Thou therefore now advise
 Or hear what to my mind first thoughts present
 Let us divide our labours, thou where choice
 Leads thee, or where most needs, whether to wind 215
 The woodbine round this arbour, or direct
 The clasping ivy where to climb, while I
 In yonder spring of roses intermixt
 With myrtle, find what to redress till noon,
 For while so near each other thus all day 220
 Our task we choose, what wonder if so near
 Looks intervene and smiles, or object new
 Casual discourse draw on? which intermits
 Our day’s work brought to little, though begun
 Early, and th’ hour of supper comes unearn’d’ 225

To whom mild answer Adam thus return’d
 ‘Sole Eve, associate sole, to me beyond
 Compare above all living creatures dear,
 Well hast thou motion’d; well thy thoughts employ’d
 How we might best fulfil the work which here 230
 God hath assign’d us, nor of me shalt pass
 Unprais’d for nothing lovelier can be found
 In woman, than to study household good,

And good works in her husband to promote
 Yet not so strictly hath our Lord impos'd 235
 Labour, as to debar us when we need
 Refreshment, whether food, or talk between,
 Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse
 Of looks and smiles, for smiles from Reason flow,
 To brute deni'd, and are of Love the food, 240
 Love not the lowest end of human life
 For not to irksome toil, but to delight
 He made us, and delight to Reason join'd
 The paths and bowers doubt not but our joint hands
 Will keep from wilderness with ease, as wide 245
 As we need walk, till younger hands ere long
 Assist us but if much converse perhaps
 Thee satiate, to short absence I could yield
 For solitude sometimes is best society,
 And short retirement urges sweet return 250
 But other doubt possesses me, lest harm
 Befal thee sever'd from me, for thou know'st
 What hath been warn'd us, what malicious Foe
 Envyng our happiness, and of his own
 Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame 255
 By sly assault, and somewhere nigh at hand
 Watches no doubt, with greedy hope to find
 His wish and best advantage, us asunder,
 Hopeless to circumvent us join'd, where each
 To other speedy aid might lend at need, 260
 Whether his first design be to withdraw *
 Our fealty from God, or to disturb
 Conjugal love, than which perhaps no bliss
 Enjoy'd by us excites his envy more,
 Or this, or worse, leave not the faithful side 265
 That gave thee being, still shades thee and protects.
 The wife, where danger or dishonour lurks,
 Safest and seemliest by her husband stays,
 Who guards her, or with her the worst endures '
 To whom the virgin majesty of Eve, 270
 As one who loves, and some unkindness meets,

With sweet austere composure thus repli'd
'Offspring of Heav'n and Earth, and all Earth's Lord,
That such an Enemy we have, who seeks
Our ruin, both by thee inform'd I learn, 275
And from the parting angel overheard
As in a shady nook I stood behind,
Just then return'd at shut of evening flow'rs
But that thou shouldst my firmness therefore doubt
To God or thee, because we have a Foe 280
May tempt it, I expected not to hear
His violence thou fear'st not, being such,
As we, not capable of death or pain,
Can either not receive, or can repel
His fraud is then thy fear, which plain infers 285
Thy equal fear that my firm faith and love
Can by his fraud be shak'n or seduc't,
Thoughts, which how found they harbour in thy breast
Adam, misthought of her to thee so dear?"
To whom with healing words Adam repli'd 290
'Daughter of God and Man, immortal Eve,
For such thou art, from sin and blame entire
Not diffident of thee do I dissuade
Thy absence from my sight, but to avoid
Th' attempt itself, intended by our Foe 295
For he who tempts, though in vain, at least asperses
The tempted with dishonour foul, suppos'd
Not incorruptible of faith, not proof
Against temptation thou thyself with scorn
And anger wouldst resent the offer'd wrong, 300
Though ineffectual found, misdeem not then,
If such affront I labour to avert
From thee alone, which on us both at once
The Enemy, though bold, will hardly dare,
Or daring, first on me th' assault shall light 305
Nor thou his malice and false guile contemn
Subtle he needs must be, who could seduce
Angels, nor think superfluous others' aid
I from the influence of thy looks receive

Access in every virtue, in thy sight 310
 More wise, more watchful, stronger, if need were
 Of outward strength, while shame, thou looking on,
 Shame to be overcome or overreacht
 Would utmost vigour raise, and rais'd unite
 Why shouldst not thou like sense within thee feel 315
 When I am present, and thy trial choose
 With me, best witness of thy virtue tri'd '

So spake domestic Adam in his care
 And matrimonial love, but Eve, who thought
 Less attributed to her faith sincere, 320
 Thus her reply with accent sweet renew'd

'If this be our condition, thus to dwell
 In narrow circuit strait'nd by a Foe,
 Subtle or violent, we not endu'd
 Single with like defence, wherever met, 325

How are we happy, still in fear of harm?
 But harm precedes not sin only our Foe
 Tempting, affronts us with his foul esteem
 Of our integrity his foul esteem

Sticks no dishonour on our front, but turns 330
 Foul on himself, then wherefore shunn'd or fear'd
 By us? who rather double honour gain
 From his surmise prov'd false, find peace within,
 Favour from Heav'n, our witness from th' event

And what is faith, love, virtue unassay'd, 335
 Alone, without exterior help sustain'd?

Let us not then suspect our happy state
 Left so imperfet by the Maker wise,
 As not secure to single or combin'd,
 Frail is our happiness, if this be so, 340
 And Eden were no Eden thus expos'd '

To whom thus Adam fervently repli'd
 'O Woman, best are all things as the will
 Of God ordain'd them, his creating hand
 Nothing imperfet or deficient left 345
 Of all that he created, much less Man,
 Or aught that might his happy state secure,

Secure from outward force, within himself
The danger lies, yet lies within his power
Against his will he can receive no harm 350
But God left free the will, for what obeys
Reason, is free, and Reason he made right,
But bid her well be ware, and still erect,
Lest by some fair-appearing good surpris'd
She dictate false, and misinform the will 355
To do what God expressly hath forbid,
Not then mistrust, but tender love enjoins
That I should mind thee oft, and mind thou me
Firm we subsist, yet possible to swerve,
Since Reason not impossibly may meet 360
Some specious object by the foe suborn'd,
And fall into deception unaware,
Not keeping strictest watch, as she was warn'd
Seek not temptation then, which to avoid
Were better, and most likely if from me 365
Thou sever not trial will come unsought
Wouldst thou approve thy constancy, approve
First thy obedience, th' other who can know?
Not seeing thee attempted, who attest?
But if thou think, trial unsought may find 370
Us both securer than thus warn'd thou seem'st,
Go, for thy stay, not free, absents thee more,
Go in thy native innocence, rely
On what thou hast of virtue, summon all,
For God towards thee hath done his part, do thine' 375
So spake the patriarch of mankind, but Eve
Persisted, yet submiss, though last, repli'd
'With thy permission then, and thus forewarn'd,
Chiefly by what thy own last reasoning words
Touch'd only, that our trial, when least sought, 380
May find us both perhaps far less prepar'd,
The willinger I go, nor much expect
A Foe so proud will first the weaker seek;
So bent, the more shall shame him his repulse'
Thus saying, from her husband's hand her hand 385

Soft she withdrew, and like a wood-nymph light,
Oread or Dryad, or of Delia's train,
Betook her to the groves, but Delia's self
In gait surpass'd and goddess-like deport,
Though not as she with bow and quiver arm'd, 390
But with such gardning tools as art yet rude,
Guiltless of fire had form'd, or angels brought
To Pales, or Pomona thus adorn'd,
Likest she seem'd, Pomona when she fled
Vertumnus, or to Ceres in her prime, 395
Yet virgin of Proserpina from Jove
Her long with ardent look his eye pursu'd
Delighted, but desiring more her stay
Oft he to her his charge of quick return
Repeated, she to him as oft engag'd 400
To be return'd by noon amid the bow'r,
And all things in best order to invite
Noontide repast, or afternoon's repose
O much deceiv'd, much failing, hapless Eve,
Of thy presum'd return ' event perverse ' 405
Thou never from that hour in Paradise
Found'st either sweet repast, or sound repose,
Such ambush hid among sweet flow'rs and shades
Waited, with hellish rancour imminent
To intercept thy way, or send thee back 410
Despoil'd of innocence, of faith, of bliss.
For now, and since first break of dawn the Fiend,
Mere serpent in appearance, forth was come,
And on his quest, where likeliest he might find
The only two of mankind, but in them 415
The whole included race, his purpos'd prey
In bow'r and field he sought, where any tuft
Of grove or garden-plot more pleasant lay,
Their tendance or plantation for delight,
By fountain or by shady rivulet, 420
He sought them both, but wish'd his hap might find
Eve separate, he wish'd, but not with hope
Of what so seldom chanc'd, when to his wish,

Beyond his hope, Eve separate he spies,
Veil'd in a cloud of fragrance, where she stood, 425
Half spi'd, so thick the roses bushing round
About her glow'd, oft stooping to support
Each flow'r of slender stalk, whose head though gay
Carnation, purple, azure, or speckt with gold,
Hung drooping unsustain'd, them she upstays 430
Gently with myrtle band, mindless the while
Herself, though fairest unsupported flow'r,
From her best prop so far, and storm so nigh
Nearer he drew, and many a walk travers'd
Of stateliest covert, cedar, pine, or palm, 435
Then voluble and bold, now hid, now seen
Among thick-wov'n arborets and flow'rs
Imborder'd on each bank, the hand of Eve
Spot more delicious than those gardens feign'd
Or of reviv'd Adonis, or renown'd 440
Alcinous, host of old Laertes' son,
Or that, not mystic, where the sapient king
Held dalliance with his fair Egyptian spouse
Much he the place admir'd, the person more
As one who long in populous city pent, 445
Where houses thick and sewers annoy the air,
Forth issuing on a summer's morn to breathe
Among the pleasant villages and farms
Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight,
The smell of grain, or tedded grass, or kine, 450
Or dairy, each rural sight, each rural sound,
If chance with nymph-like step fair virgin pass,
What pleasing seem'd, for her now pleases more,
She most, and in her look sums all delight
Such pleasure took the Serpent to behold 455
This flow'ry plat, the sweet recess of Eve
Thus early, thus alone her Heav'nly form
Angelic, but more soft, and feminine,
Her graceful innocence, her every air
Of gesture or least action over-aw'd 460
~~His malice~~, and with rapine sweet bereav'd

His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought
That space the Evil One abstracted stood
From his own evil, and for the time remain'd
Stupidly good, of enmity disarm'd, 465
Of guile, of hate, of envy, of revenge,
But the hot Hell that always in him burns,
Though in mid Heav'n, soon ended his delight,
And tortures him now more, the more he sees
Of pleasure not for him ordain'd Then soon 470
Fierce hate he recollects, and all his thoughts
Of mischief, gratulating, thus excites

'Thoughts, whither have ye led me' with what sweet
Compulsion thus transported to forget
What hither brought us? hate, not love, nor hope 475
Of Paradise for Hell, hope here to taste
Of pleasure, but all pleasure to destroy,
Save what is in destroying, other joy
To me is lost Then let me not let pass
Occasion which now smiles, behold alone 480
The woman, opportune to all attempts,
Her husband, for I view far round, not nigh,
Whose higher, intellectual more I shun,
And strength, of courage haughty, and of limb
Heroic built, though of terrestrial mould, 485
Foe not formidable, exempt from wound,
I not, so much hath Hell debas'd, and pain
Enfeebl'd me, to what I was in Heav'n
She fair, divinely fair, fit love for gods,
Not terrible, though terror be in love 490
And beauty, not approach't by stronger hate,
Hate stronger, under show of love well feign'd,
The way which to her ruin now I tend'

So spake the Enemy of mankind, enclos'd
In serpent, inmate bad; and toward Eve 495
Address'd his way, not with indented wave,
Prone on the ground, as since, but on his rear,
Circular base of rising folds, that tower'd
Fold above fold a surging maze, his head

Crested aloft, and carbuncle his eyes , 300
 With burnisht neck of verdant gold, erect
 Amidst his circling spires, that on the grass
 Floated redundant pleasing was his shape,
 And lovely, never since of serpent kind
 Lovelier, not those that in Illyria changed 505
 Hermione and Cadmus, or the god
 In Epidaurus, nor to which transform'd
 Ammonian Jove, or Capitoline was seen,
 He with Olympias, this with her who bore
 Scipio the highth of Rome With tract oblique 510
 At first, as one who sought access, but fear'd
 To interrupt, side-long he works his way
 As when a ship by skilful steersman wrought
 Nigh river's mouth or foreland, where the wind
 Veers off, as oft so steers, and shifts her sail , 515
 So varied he, and of his tortuous tram
 Curl'd many a wanton wreath in sight of Eve,
 To lure her eye , she busied heard the sound
 Of rustling leaves, but minded not, as us'd
 To such disport before her through the field, 520
 From every beast, more duteous at her call,
 Than at Circean call the herd disguis'd
 He bolder now, uncall'd before her stood ,
 But as in gaze admiring oft he bow'd
 His turret crest, and sleek enamell'd neck, 525
 Fawning , and lick'd the ground whereon she trod
 His gentle dumb expression turn'd at length
 The eye of Eve to mark his play, he glad
 Of her attention gain'd, with serpent tongue
 Organic, or impulse of vocal air, 530
 His fraudulent temptation thus began
 'Wonder not, sovrañ mistress, if perhaps
 Thou canst, who art sole wonder, much less arm
 Thy looks, the Heav'n of mildness, with disdain,
 Displeas'd that I approach thee thus, and gaze 535
 Insatiate, I thus single, nor have fear'd
 Thy awful brow, more awful thus retir'd

Fairest resemblance of thy Maker fair,
 Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine
 By gift, and thy celestial beauty adore 540
 With ravishment beheld, there best beheld
 Where universally admir'd, but here
 In this enclosure wild, these beasts among,
 Beholders rude, and shallow to discern
 Half what in thee is fair, one man except, 545
 Who sees thee? (and what is one?) who shouldst be seen
 A goddess among gods, ador'd and serv'd
 By angels numberless, thy daily train '

So glaz'd the Tempter, and his proem tun'd,
 Into the heart of Eve his words made way, 550
 Though at the voice much marvelling, at length
 Not unamaz'd she thus in answer spake

'What may this mean? language of Man pronounc't
 By tongue of brute, and human sense exprest?
 The first at least of these I thought deni'd 555
 To beasts, whom God on their creation-day
 Created mute to all articulate sound,
 The latter I demur, for in their looks
 Much reason, and in their actions oft appears
 Thee, Serpent, subtlest beast of all the field 560
 I knew, but not with human voice endu'd,
 Redouble then this miracle, and say
 How cam'st thou speakable of mute, and how
 To me so friendly grown above the rest
 Of brutal kind, that daily are in sight? 565
 Say, for such wonder claims attention due '

To whom the guileful Tempter thus repli'd
 'Empress of this fair world, resplendent Eve,
 Easy to me it is to tell thee all
 What thou commandst, and right thou shouldst be obey'd 570
 I was at first as other beasts that graze
 The trodden herb, of abject thoughts and low,
 As was my food, nor ought but food discern'd
 Or sex, and apprehended nothing high
 Till on a day roving the field, I chanc'd

A goodly tree far distant to behold
Loaden with fruit of fairest colours mixt
Ruddy and gold I nearer drew to gaze,
When from the boughs a savoury odour blown,
Grateful to appetite, more pleas'd my sense 580
Than smell of sweetest fennel or the teats
Of ewe or goat dropping with milk at ev'n,
Unsuckt of lamb or kid, that tend their play
To satisfy the sharp desire I had
Of tasting those fair apples, I resolv'd 585
Not to defer, hunger and thirst at once,
Powerful persuaders, quicken'd at the scent
Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me so keen
About the mossy trunk I wound me soon,
For high from ground the branches would require 590
Thy utmost reach or Adam's round the tree
All other beasts that saw, with like desire
Longing and envying stood, but could not reach
Amid the tree now got, where plenty hung
Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill 595
I spar'd not, for such pleasure till that hour
At teed or fountain never had I found
Sated at length, ere long I might perceive
Strange alteration in me, to degree
Of Reason in my inward poweis, and speech 600
Wanted not long, though to this shape retain'd
Thenceforth to speculations high or deep
I turn'd my thoughts, and with capacious mind
Consider'd all things visible in Heav'n,
Or Earth, or middle, all things fair and good, 605
But all that fair and good in thy divine
Semblance, and in thy beauty's Heav'nly ray
United I beheld, no fair to thine
Equivalent or second, which compell'd
Me thus, though importune perhaps, to come 610
And gaze, and worship thee, of right declar'd
Sovran of creatures, universal Dame'
So talk'd the spirited sly Snake, and Eve

Yet more amaz'd unwary thus repli'd
 'Serpent, thy overpraising leaves in doubt 615
 The virtue of that fruit, in thee first prov'd
 But say, where grows the tree, from hence how far?
 For many are the trees of God that grow
 In Paradise, and various, yet unknown
 To us, in such abundance lies our choice, 620
 As leaves a greater store of fruit untoucht,
 Still hanging incorruptible, till men
 Grow up to their provision, and more hands
 Help to disburden nature of her birth'

To whom the wily Adder, blithe and glad 625
 'Empress, the way is ready, and not long,
 Beyond a row of myrtles, on a flat,
 Fast by a fountain, one small thicket past
 Of blowing myrrh and balm, if thou accept
 My conduct, I can bring thee thither soon' 630

'Lead then,' said Eve He leading swiftly roll'd
 In tangles, and made intricate seem straight,
 To mischief swift Hope elevates, and joy
 Bright'ns his crest, as when a wandring fire,
 Compact of unctuous vapour, which the night 635
 Condenses, and the cold environs round,
 Kindl'd through agitation to a flame,
 Which oft, they say, some evil spirit attends
 Hovering and blazing with delusive light,
 Misleads th' amaz'd night-wanderer from his way 640
 To bogs and mires, and oft through pond or pool,
 There swallow'd up and lost, from succour far
 So glister'd the dire Snake, and ~~into~~ ⁱⁿ fraud
 Led Eve our credulous mother, to the tree
 Of prohibition, root of all our woe, 645
 Which when she saw, thus to her guide she spake

'Serpent, we might have spar'd our coming hither,
 Fruitless to me, though fruit be here to excess,
 The credit of whose virtue rests with thee,
 Wondrous indeed, if cause of such effects 650
 But of this tree we may not taste nor touch,

God so commanded, and left that command
Sole daughter of his voice, the rest, we live
Law to ourselves, our Reason is our law'

To whom the Tempter guilefully repli'd 655
'Indeed' hath God then said that of the fruit
Of all these garden trees ye shall not eat,
Yet lords declar'd of all in Earth or air?'

To whom thus Eve yet sinless 'Of the fruit
Of each tree in the garden we may eat, 660
But of the fruit of this fair tree amidst
The garden, God hath said, "Ye shall not eat
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, lest ye die"'

She scarce had said, though brief, when now more bold
The Tempter, but with show of zeal and love 665
To Man, and indignation at his wrong,
New part puts on, and as to passion mov'd,
Fluctuates disturb'd, yet comely and in act
Rais'd, as of some great matter to begin
As when of old some orator renown'd 670
In Athens or free Rome, where eloquence
Flourish'd, since mute, to some great cause address,
Stood in himself collected, while each part,
Motion, each act won audience ere the tongue,
Sometimes in highth began, as no delay 675
Of preface brooking through his zeal of right
So standing, moving, or to highth upgrown
The Tempter all impassion'd thus began

'O sacred, wise, and wisdom-giving Plant!
Mother of science! now I feel thy power 680
Within me clear, not only to discern
Things in their causes, but to trace the ways
Of highest agents, deem'd however wise
Queen of this universe, do not believe
Those rigid threats of death, ye shall not die 685
How should ye? by the fruit? it gives you life
To knowledge by the Threatener? look on me,
Me who have touch'd and tasted, yet both live,
And life more perfect have attain'd than Fate

Meant me, by ventring higher than my lot 690
 Shall that be shut to Man, which to the beast
 Is open? or will God incense his ire
 For such a petty trespass, and not praise
 Rather your dauntless virtue, whom the pain
 Of death denounc't, whatever thing death be, 695
 Deteri'd not from achieving what might lead
 To happier life, knowledge of good and evil,
 Of good, how just? of evil, if what is evil
 Be real, why not known, since easier shunn'd?
 God therefore cannot hurt ye, and be just, 700
 Not just, not God, not fear'd then, nor obey'd
 Your fear itself of death removes the fear
 Why then was this forbid? Why but to awe,
 Why but to keep you low and ignorant,
 His worshippers, he knows that in the day 705
 You eat thereof, your eyes that seem so clear,
 Yet are but dim, shall perfectly be then
 Open'd and clear'd, and ye shall be as gods,
 Knowing both good and evil as they know
 That ye shall be as gods, since I as Man, 710
 Internal Man, is but proportion meet,
 I of brute human, ye of human gods,
 So ye shall die perhaps, by putting off
 Human, to put on gods, death to be wisht,
 Though threat'nd, which no worse than this can bring 715
 And what are gods that man may not become
 As they, participating god-like food?
 The gods are first, and that advantage use
 On our belief, that all from them proceeds
 I question it, for this fair Earth I see, 720
 Warm'd by the sun, producing every kind,
 Them nothing if they all things, who enclos'd
 Knowledge of good and evil in this tree,
 That whoso eats thereof, forthwith attains
 Wisdom without their leave? and wherein lies 725
 Th' offence, that Man should thus attain to know?
 What can your knowledge hurt him, or this tree

Impart against his will if all be his?
Or is it envy, and can envy dwell
In Heav'nly breasts? These, these and many more 730
Causes import your need of this fair fruit
Goddess humane, reach then, and freely taste'
He ended, and his words replete with guile
Into her heart too easy entrance won
Fixt on the fruit she gaz'd, which to behold 735
Might tempt alone, and in her ears the sound
Yet rung of his persuasive words, impregn'd
With reason, to her seeming, and with truth,
Meanwhile the hour of noon drew on, and wak'd
An eager appetite, rais'd by the smell 740
So savoury of that fruit, which with desire,
Inclinable now grown to touch or taste,
Solicited her longing eye, yet first
Pausing awhile, thus to herself she mus'd
'Great are thy virtues, doubtless, best of fruits, 745
Though kept from Man, and worthy to be admir'd,
Whose taste, too long forborne, at first assay,
Gave elocution to the mute, and taught
The tongue not made for speech to speak thy praise
Thy praise he also who forbids thy use 750
Conceals not from us, naming thee the tree
Of Knowledge, knowledge both of good and evil,
Forbids us then to taste, but his forbidding
Commends thee more, while it infers the good
By thee communicated, and our want 755
For good unknown, sure is not had, or had
And yet unknown, is as not had at all
In plain then, what forbids he but to know,
Forbids us good, forbids us to be wise?
Such prohibitions bind not But if death 760
Bind us with after-bands, what profits then
Our inward freedom? In the day we eat
Of this fair fruit, our doom is, we shall die
How dies the serpent? he hath eaten and lives,
And knows, and speaks, and reasons, and discerns, 765

Irrational till then For us alone
Was death invented? or to us deni'd
This intellectual food, for beasts reserv'd?
For beasts it seems yet that one beast which first
Hath tasted, envies not, but brings with joy 770
The good befall'n him, author unsuspect,
Friendly to man, far from deceit or guile
What fear I then? rather what know to fear
Under this ignorance of good and evil,
Of God or death, of law or penalty? 775
Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine,
Fair to the eye, inviting to the taste,
Of virtue to make wise what hinders then
To reach, and feed at once both body and mind?'

So saying, her rash hand in evil hour 780
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she eat
Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat
Sighing through all her works gave signs of woe,
That all was lost Back to the thicket slunk
The guilty Serpent, and well might, for Eve 785
Intent now wholly on her taste, nought else
Regarded, such delight till then, as seem'd,
In fruit she never tasted, whether true
Or fancied so, through expectation high
Of knowledge, nor was godhead from her thought 790
Greedily she ingorg'd without restraint,
And knew not eating death satiate at length,
And hight'nd as with wine, jocund and boon,
Thus to herself she pleasingly began

'O sovran, virtuous, precious of all trees 795
In Paradise' of operation blest
To sapience, hitherto obscur'd, infam'd,
And thy fair fruit let hang, as to no end
Created, but henceforth my early care,
Not without song, each morning, and due praise 800
Shall tend thee, and the fertile burden ease
Of thy full branches offer'd free to all,
Till dieted by thee I grow mature

In knowledge, as the gods who all things know,
Though others envy what they cannot give, 805
For had the gift been theirs, it had not here
Thus grown Experience, next to thee I owe,
Best guide, not following thee I had remain'd
In ignorance, thou op'nst Wisdom's way,
And giv'st access, though secret she retire 810
And I perhaps am secret, Heav'n is high,
High and remote to see from thence distinct
Each thing on earth, and other care perhaps
May have diverted from continual watch
Our great Forbidder, safe with all his spies 815
About him But to Adam in what sort
Shall I appear? Shall I to him make known
As yet my change, and give him to partake
Full happiness with me? or rather not,
But keep the odds of knowledge in my power 820
Without co-partner? so to add what wants
In female sex, the more to draw his love,
And render me more equal, and perhaps,
A thing not undesirable, sometime
Superior, for inferior who is free? 825
This may be well but what if God have seen,
And death ensue? then I shall be no more,
And Adam wedded to another Eve,
Shall live with her enjoying, I extinct,
A death to think Confum'd then I resolve, 830
Adam shall share with me in bliss or woe
So dear I love him, that with him, all deaths
I could endure, without him live no life'
So saying, from the tree her steps she turn'd,
But first low reverence done, as to the power 835
That dwelt within, whose presence had infus'd
Into the plant sciential sap, deriv'd
From nectar, drink of gods Adam the while
Waiting desirous her return, had wove
Of choicest flow'rs a garland to adorn 840
Her tresses, and her rural labours crown,

As reapers oft are wont their harvest-queen
 Great joy he promis'd to his thoughts, and new
 Solace in her return, so long delay'd,
 Yet oft his heart, divine of something ill, 845
 Misgave him, he the falt'ring measure felt,
 And forth to meet her went, the way she took
 That morn when first they parted, by the ~~tree~~
 Of Knowledge he must pass, there he her met,
 Scarce from the tree returning, in her hand 850
 A bough of fairest fruit that downy smil'd,
 New gather'd, and ambrosial smell diffus'd
 To him she hasted, in her face Excuse
 Came prologue and apology to prompt,
 Which with bland words at will she thus address 855
 'Hast thou not wonder'd, Adam, at my stay?
 Thee I have misst, and thought it long, depriv'd
 Thy presence, agony of love till now
 Not felt, nor shall be twice, for never more
 Mean I to try, what rash untri'd I sought, 860
 The pain of absence from thy sight But strange
 Hath been the cause, and wonderful to hear
 This tree is not as we are told, a tree
 Of danger tasted, nor to evil unknown
 Op'ning the way, but of divine effect 865
 To open eyes, and make them gods who taste,
 And hath been tasted such the serpent wise,
 Or not restrain'd as we, or not obeying,
 Hath eat'n of the fruit, and is become,
 Not dead, as we are threaten'd, but thenceforth 870
 Endu'd with human voice and human sense,
 Reasoning to admiration, and with me
 Persuasively hath so prevail'd, that I
 Have also tasted, and have also found
 Th' effects to correspond, opener mine eyes, 875
 Dim erst, dilated spirits, ampler heart,
 And growing up to godhead, which for thee
 Chiefly I sought, without thee can despise
 For bliss, as thou hast part, to me is bliss,

Tedious, unshar'd with thee, and odious soon 880
Thou therefore also taste, that equal lot
May join us, equal joy, as equal love,
Lest thou not tasting, different degree
Disjoin us, and I then too late renounce
Deity for thee, when Fate will not permit' 885

Thus Eve with count'nance blithe her story told,
But in her cheek distemper flushing glow'd
On th' other side, Adam, soon as he heard
The fatal trespass done by Eve, amaz'd,
Astonied stood and blank, while horror chill 890
Ran through his veins, and all his joints relax'd,
From his slack hand the garland wreath'd for Eve
Down dropt, and all the faded roses shed
Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length
First to himself he inward silence broke 895

'O fairest of creation' last and best
Of all God's works' creature in whom excell'd
Whatever can to sight or thought be form'd,
Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet'
How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost, 900
Defac't, deflow'rd, and now to death devote?
Rather how hast thou yielded to transgress
The strict forbiddance, how to violate
The sacred fruit forbidd'n? some cursed fraud
Of enemy hath beguild thee, yet unknown, 905
And me with thee hath run'd, for with thee
Certain my resolution is to die
How can I live without thee, how forego
Thy sweet converse and love so dearly join'd,
To live again in these wild woods forlorn? 910
Should God create another Eve, and I
Another rib afford, yet loss of thee
Would never from my heart, no, no, I feel
The link of Nature draw me flesh of flesh,
Bone of my bone thou art, and from thy state 915
Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe'

So having said, as one from sad dismay

Re-comforted, and after thoughts disturb'd
 Submitting to what seem'd remediless,
 Thus in calm mood his words to Eve he turn'd 920
 'Bold deed thou hast presum'd, adventurous Eve,
 And peril great provok't, who thus hath dai'd
 Had it been only coveting to eye
 That sacred fruit, sacred to abstinence,
 Much more to taste it under ban to touch 925
 But past who can recal, or done undo?
 Not God omnipotent, nor Fate, yet so
 Perhaps thou shalt not die, perhaps the fact
 Is not so heinous now, foretasted fruit,
 Profan'd first by the serpent, by him first 930
 Made common and unhallow'd ere our taste,
 Nor yet on him found deadly, he yet lives,
 Lives, as thou saidst, and gains to live as Man
 Higher degree of life, inducement strong
 To us, as likely tasting to attain 935
 Proportional ascent, which cannot be
 But to be gods, or angels demi-gods
 Nor can I think that God, Creator wise,
 Though threatening, will in earnest so destroy
 Us his prime creatures, dignifi'd so high, 940
 Set over all his works, which in our fall,
 For us created, needs with us must fail,
 Dependent made, so God shall uncreate,
 Be frustrate, do, undo, and labour lose,
 Not well conceiv'd of God, who though his power 945
 Creation could repeat, yet would be loth
 Us to abolish, lest the Adversary
 Triumph, and say, "Fickle their state whom God
 Most favours, who can please him long? me first
 He ruin'd, now mankind, whom will he next?" 950
 Matter of scorn, not to be given the Foe
 However, I with thee have fixt my lot,
 Certain to undergo like doom, if death
 Consort with thee, death is to me as life,
 So forcible within my heart I feel 955

The bond of Nature draw me to my own,
My own in thee, for what thou art is mine,
Our state cannot be sever'd, we are one,
One flesh, to lose thee were to lose myself'

So Adam, and thus Eve to him repli'd 960

'O glorious trial of exceeding love,
Illustrious evidence, example high'
Engaging me to emulate, but short
Of thy perfection, how shall I attain?

Adam! from whose dear side I boast me sprung, 965

And gladly of our union hear thee speak,
One heart, one soul in both, whereof good proof
This day affords, declaring thee resolv'd,
Rather than death or aught than death more dread

Shall separate us, linkt in love so dear, 970

To undergo with me one guilt, one crime,
If any be, of tasting this fair fruit,
Whose virtue, for of good still good proceeds,
Direct, or by occasion hath presented

This happy trial of thy love, which else 975

So eminently never had been known
Were it I thought death menac't would ensue
This my attempt, I would sustain alone
The worst, and not persuade thee, rather die

Deserted, than oblige thee with a fact 980

Pernicious to thy peace, chiefly assur'd
Remarkably so late of thy so true,

So faithful love unequall'd, but I feel

Far otherwise th' event, not death, but life

Augmented, op'nd eyes, new hopes, new joys, 985

Taste so divine, that what of sweet before
Hath toucht my sense, flat seems to this, and harsh
On my experience, Adam, freely taste,
And fear of death deliver to the winds'

So saying, she embrac'd him, and for joy 990

Tenderly wept, much won that he his love
Had so ennobl'd, as of choice to incur
Dyeme displeasure for her sake, or death

In recompense, (for such compliance bad
 Such recompense best merits) from the bough 995
 She gave him of that fair enticing fruit
 With liberal hand he scrupled not to eat
 Against his better knowledge, not deceiv'd,
 But fondly overcome with female charm
 Earth trembl'd from her entrails, as again 1000
 In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan,
 Sky lowr'd, and muttering thunder, some sad drops
 Wept at completing of the mortal sin
 Original, while Adam took no thought,
 Eating his fill, nor Eve to iterate 1005
 Her former trespass fear'd, the more to soothe
 Him with her lov'd society, that now
 As with new wine intoxicated both
 They swim in mirth, and fancy that they feel
 Divinity within them breeding wings 1010
 Wherewith to scorn the Earth but that false fruit
 Far other operation first display'd,
 Carnal desire inflaming, he on Eve
 Began to cast lascivious eyes, she him
 As wantonly repaid, in lust they burn 1015
 Till Adam thus 'gan Eve to dalliance move
 'Eve, now I see thou art exact of taste,
 And elegant, of sapience no small part,
 Since to each meaning saviour we apply,
 And palate call judicious, I the praise 1020
 Yield thee, so well this day thou hast purvey'd
 Much pleasure we have lost, while we abstain'd
 From this delightful fruit, nor known till now
 True relish, tasting, if such pleasure be
 In things to us forbidden, it might be wish'd, 1025
 For this one tree had been forbidden ten
 But come, so well refresh't, now let us play,
 As meet is, after such delicious fare
 For never did thy beauty since the day
 I saw thee first and wedded thee, adorn'd 1030
 With all perfections, so inflame my sense

With ardour to enjoy thee, fairer now
Than ever, bounty of this virtuous tree'

So said he, and forbore not glance or toy
Of amorous intent, well understood 1035

Of Eve, whose eye darted contagious fire
Her hand he seiz'd, and to a shady bank,
Thick overhead with verdant roof imbrow'd,
He led her nothing loth, flow'rs were the couch,
Pansies, and violets, and asphodel, 1040

And hyacinth, Earth's freshest softest lap
There they their fill of love and love's disport
Took largely, of their mutual guilt the seal,
The solace of their sin, till dewy sleep
Oppress'd them, wearied with their amorous play 1045

Soon as the force of that fallacious fruit,
That with exhilarating vapour bland
About their spirits had play'd, and inmost powers
Made err, was now exhal'd, and grosser sleep
Bred of unkindly fumes, with conscious dreams 1050

Encumber'd, now had left them, up they rose
As from unrest, and each the other viewing,
Soon found their eyes how op'nd, and their minds
How dark'nd, innocence, that as a veil
Had shadow'd them from knowing ill, was gone, 1055

Just confidence, and native righteousness,
And honour from about them, naked left
To guilty Shame, he cover'd, but his robe
Uncover'd more So rose the Danite strong,
Herculean Samson from the harlot-lap 1060

Of Philistean Dalilah, and wak'd
Shorn of his strength, they destitute and bare
Of all their virtue Silent, and in face
Confounded long they sat, as struck'n mute,
Till Adam, though not less than Eve abash't, 1065

At length gave utterance to these words constrain'd
'O Eve, in evil hour thou didst give ear
To that false worm, of whomsoever taught
To counterfet man's voice, true in our fall,

False in our promised rising since our eyes 1070
 Op'nd we find indeed, and find we know
 Both good and evil, good lost, and evil got
 Bad fruit of knowledge, if this be to know,
 Which leaves us naked thus, of honour void,
 Of innocence, of faith, of purity, 1075
 Our wonted ornaments, now soil'd and stain'd,
 And in our faces evident the signs
 Of foul concupiscence, whence evil store,
 Even shame, the last of evils, of the first
 Be sure then How shall I behold the face 1080
 Henceforth of God or angel, erst with joy
 And rapture so oft beheld? those Heav'nly shapes
 Will dazzle now this earthly, with their blaze
 Insufferably bright O might I here
 In solitude live savage, in some glade 1085
 Obscur'd, where highest woods impenetrable
 To star or sun-light, spread their umbrage broad
 And brown as evening! Cover me, ye pines,
 Ye cedars, with innumerable boughs
 Hide me, where I may never see them more! 1090
 But let us now, as in bad plight, devise
 What best may for the present serve to hide
 The parts of each from other, that seem most
 To shame obnoxious, and unseemliest seen
 Some tree, whose broad smooth leaves together sew'd, 1095
 And girded on our loins, may cover round
 Those middle parts, that this new comer, Shame,
 There sit not, and reproach us as unclean'
 So counsell'd he and both together went
 Into the thickest wood, there soon they chose 1100
 The fig-tree, not that kind for fruit renown'd,-
 But such as at this day to Indians known
 In Malabar or Decan spreads her arms,
 Branching so broad and long, that in the ground
 The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow 1105
 About the mother tree, a pillar'd shade
 High over-arch't, and echoing walks between,

There oft the Indian herdsman shunning heat
 Shelters in cool, and tends his pasturing herds
 At loopholes cut through thickest shade Those leaves 1110
 They gather'd, broad as Amazonian targe,
 And with what skill they had, together sew'd,
 To gird their waist, vain covering if to hide
 Their guilt and dreaded shame, O how unlike
 To that first naked glory! Such of late 1115
 Columbus found th' American, so girt
 With feather'd cincture, naked else and wild,
 Among the trees on isles and woody shores
 Thus fenc'd, and as they thought, their shame in part
 Cover'd, but not at rest or ease of mind, 1120
 They sat them down to weep, nor only tears
 Rain'd at their eyes, but high winds worse within
 Began to rise, high passions, anger, hate,
 Mistrust, suspicion, discord, and shook sore
 Their inward state of mind, calm region once 1125
 And full of peace, now tost and turbulent
 For Understanding rul'd not, and the Will
 Heard not her lore, both in subjection now
 To sensual Appetite, who from beneath
 Usurping over sovran Reason claim'd 1130
 Superior sway, from thus distemper'd breast,
 Adam, estrang'd in look and alter'd style,
 Speech intermitted thus to Eve renew'd

'Would thou hadst heark'nd to my words, and stay'd
 With me, as I besought thee, when that strange 1135
 Desire of wandering, this unhappy morn,
 I know not whence possess'd thee, we had then
 Remain'd still happy, not as now, despoil'd
 Of all our good, sham'd, naked, miserable
 Let none henceforth seek needless cause to approve 1140
 The faith they owe, when earnestly they seek
 Such proof, conclude, they then begin to fail'

To whom soon mov'd with touch of blame thus Eve
 'What words have passed thy lips, Adam severe'
 Imput'st thou that to my default, or will 1145

Of wandring, as thou call'st it, which who knows
 But might as ill have happ'nd thou being by,
 Or to thyself perhaps? Hadst thou been there,
 Or here th' attempt, thou couldst not have discern'd
 Fraud in the serpent, speaking as he spake, 1150
 No ground of enmity between us known,
 Why should he mean me ill, or seek to harm
 Was I to have never parted from thy side?
 As good have grown there still a lifeless 11b
 Being as I am, why didst not thou the head 1155
 Command me absolutely not to go,
 Going into such danger as thou saidst?
 Too facile then thou didst not much gainsay,
 Nay didst permit, approve, and fair dismiss
 Hadst thou been firm and fixt in thy dissent, 1160
 Neither had I transgress'd, nor thou with me'
 To whom then first incenst Adam repli'd
 'Is this the love, is this the recompense
 Of mine to thee, ingrateful Eve, exprest
 Immutable when thou wert lost, not I, 1165
 Who might have liv'd and joy'd immortal bliss,
 Yet willingly chose rather death with thee?
 And am I now upbraided as the cause
 Of thy transgressing? not enough severe,
 It seems, in thy restraint what could I more? 1170
 I warn'd thee, I admonish'd thee, foretold
 The danger, and the lurking enemy
 That lay in wait, beyond this had been force,
 And force upon free-will hath here no place
 But confidence then bore thee on, secure 1175
 Either to meet no danger, or to find
 Matter of glorious trial, and perhaps
 I also err'd in overmuch admiring
 What seem'd in thee so perfect, that I thought
 No evil durst attempt thee, but I rue 1180
 That error now, which is become my crime,
 And thou th' accuser Thus it shall befall
 Him who to worth in women overtrusting

Lets her will rule ; restraint she will not brook,
And left to herself, if evil thence ensue,
She first his weak indulgence will accuse ,

1185

Thus they in mutual accusation spent
The fruitless hours, but nether self-condemning,
And of their vain contest appear'd no end

BOOK X

THE ARGUMENT

Man's transgression known, the guardian angels forsake Paradise, and return up to Heaven to approve their vigilance, and are approved, God declaring that the entrance of Satan could not be by them prevented. He sends his Son to judge the transgressors, who descends and gives sentence accordingly, then in pity clothes them both, and re-ascends. Sin and Death sitting till then at the gates of Hell, by wondrous sympathy feeling the success of Satan in this new world, and the sin by Man there committed, resolve to sit no longer confined in Hell, but to follow Satan their sire up to the place of Man. To make the way easier from Hell to this world to and fro, they pave a broad highway or bridge over Chaos, according to the track that Satan first made, then preparing for earth they meet him proud of his success returning to Hell, their mutual gratulation. Satan arrives at Pandemonium, in full assembly relates with boasting his success against Man, instead of applause is entertained with a general hiss by all his audience, transformed with himself suddenly into serpents, according to his doom given in Paradise, then deluded with a shew of the forbidden tree springing up before them, they greedily reaching to take of the fruit, chew dust and bitter ashes. The proceedings of Sin and Death. God foretells the final victory of his Son over them, and the renewing of all things, but for the present commands his angels to make several alterations in the heavens and elements. Adam, more and more perceiving his fallen condition, heavily bewails, rejects the condolment of Eve, she persists and at length appeases him, then to evade the curse likely to fall on their offspring proposes to Adam violent ways which he approves not, but conceiving better hope, puts her in mind of the late promise made them, that her seed should be revenged on the Serpent, and exhorts her with him to seek peace of the offended Deity by repentance and supplication.

MEANWHILE the heinous and despiteful act
Of Satan done in Paradise, and how
He in the serpent, had perverted Eve,

Her husband she, to taste the fatal fruit,
 Was known in Heav'n, for what¹ can 'scape the eye 5
 Of God all-seeing, or deceive ~~his~~ heart
 Omniscient? who in all things wise and just,
 Hinder'd not Satan to attempt the mind
 Of Man, with strength entire, and free-will arm'd,
 Complete to have discover'd and repulst 10
 Whatever wiles of foe or seeming friend
 For still they knew, and ought to have still remember'd
 The high injunction not to taste that fruit,
 Whoever tempted, which they, not obeying,
 Incurr'd, (what could they less?) the penalty, 15
 And manifold in sin, deserv'd to fall
 Up into Heav'n from Paradise in haste
 Th' angelic guards ascended, mute and sad
 For Man, for of his state by this they knew,
 Much wond'ring how the subtle Fiend had stol'n 20
 Entrance unseen Soon as th' unwelcome news
 From Earth arriv'd at Heaven gate, displeas'd
 All were who heard, dim sadness did not spare
 That time celestial visages, yet mixt
 With pity, violated not their bliss 25
 About the new arriv'd, in multitudes
 Th' ethereal people ran, to hear and know
 How all befell they towards the Throne Supreme
 Accountable made haste to make appear
 With righteous plea, their utmost vigilance, 30
 And easily approv'd when the Most High
 Eternal Father from his secret cloud,
 Amidst in thunder utter'd thus his voice
 " 'Assembl'd angels, and ye Powers return'd
 From unsuccessful charge, be not dismay'd, 35
 Nor troubl'd at these tidings from the Earth,
 Which your sincerest care could not prevent,
 Foretold so lately what would come to pass,
 When first this Tempter cross'd the gulf from Hell
 I told ye then he should prevail and speed 40
~~On~~ ~~this~~ bad errand, Man should be seduc't

And flatter'd out of all, believing lies
 Against his Maker, no decree of mine
 Concurring to necessitate his fall,
 Or touch with lightest moment of impulse 45
 His free will, to her own inclining left
 In even scale But fall'n he is, and now
 What rests but that the mortal sentence pass
 On his transgression, death denounc't that day?
 Which he presumes already vain and void, 50
 Because not yet inflicted, as he fear'd,
 By some immediate stroke, but soon shall find
 Forbearance no acquittance ere day end
 Justice shall not return, as bounty, scorn'd
 But whom send I to judge them? whom but thee, 55
 Vicegerent Son? to thee I have transferr'd
 All judgment whether in Heav'n, or Earth, or Hell
 Easy it might be seen that I intend
 Mercy colleague with justice, sending thee
 Man's Friend, his Mediator, his design'd 60
 Both Ransom and Redeemer voluntary,
 And destin'd Man himself to judge Man fall'n'
 So spake the Father, and unfolding bright
 Toward the right hand his glory, on the Son
 Blaz'd forth unclouded Deity, he full 65
 Resplendent all his Father manifest
 Express'd, and thus divinely answer'd mild
 'Father eternal, thine is to decree,
 Mine, both in Heav'n and Earth to do thy will
 Supreme, that thou in me thy Son belov'd 70
 May'st ever rest well pleas'd I go to judge
 On Earth these thy transgressors, but thou know'st,
 Whoever judg'd, the worst on me must light,
 When time shall be, for so I undertook
 Before thee, and not repenting, this obtain 75
 Of right, that I may mitigate their doom
 On me deriv'd, yet I shall temper so
 Justice with mercy, as may illustrate most
 Them fully satisfied, and thee appease
 Attendance none shall need, nor train, where none

Are to behold the judgment, but the judg'd,
 Those two, the third best absent is condemn'd,
 Convict by flight, and rebel to all law
 'Conviction to the serpent none belongs'

Thus saying, from his radiant seat he rose 85
 Of high collateral glory him Thrones, and Powers,
 Princedoms, and Dominations ministrant
 Accompanied to Heaven gate, from whence
 Eden and all the coast in prospect lay
 Down he descended straight, the speed of gods 90
 Time counts not, tho' with swiftest minutes wing'd
 Now was the sun in western cadence low
 From noon, and gentle airs due at their hour
 To fan the Earth now wak'd, and usher in
 The evening cool, when he from wrath more cool 95
 Came the mild Judge and Intercessor both
 To sentence Man the voice of God they heard
 Now walking in the garden, by soft winds
 Brought to their ears, while day declin'd, they heard,
 And from his presence hid themselves among 100
 The thickest trees, both man and wife, till God
 Approaching, thus to Adam call'd aloud

'Where art thou Adam, wont with joy to meet
 My coming seen far off? I miss thee here,
 Not pleas'd, thus entertain'd with solitude, 105
 Where obvious duty erewhile appear'd unsought
 Or come I less conspicuous, or what change
 Absents thee, or what chance detains? Come forth.'

He came; and with him Eve, more loath, though first
 To offend, discount'nanc't both, and discompos'd, 110
 Love was not in their looks, either to God
 Or to each other, but apparent guilt,
 And shame, and perturbation, and despair,
 Anger, and obstinacy, and hate, and guile
 Whence Adam falt'ring long, thus answer'd brief 115

'I heard thee in the garden, and of thy voice
 afraid, being naked, hid myself' To whom
 The gracious Judge without revile repli'd
 Thy voice thou oft hast heard, and hast not fear'd,

But still rejoic't, how is it now become 120
 So dreadful to thee? that thou art naked, who
 Hath told thee? hast thou eaten of the tree
 Whereof I gave thee charge thou shouldst not eat?'

To whom thus Adam sore beset repli'd
 'O Heav'n' in evil strait this day I stand 125
 Before my Judge, either to undergo
 Myself the total crime, or to accuse
 My other self, the partner of my life,
 Whose failing, while her faith to me remains,
 I should conceal, and not expose to blame 130
 By my complaint, but strict necessity
 Subdues me, and calamitous constraint,
 Lest on my head both sin and punishment,
 However insupportable, be all
 Devolv'd, though should I hold my peace, yet thou 135
 Wouldst easily detect what I conceal
 This woman whom thou mad'st to be my help,
 And gav'st me as thy perfect gift, so good,
 So fit, so acceptable, so divine,
 That from her hand I could suspect no ill, 140
 And what she did, whatever in itself,
 Her doing seem'd to justify the deed,
 She gave me of the tree, and I did eat'

To whom the sovran Presence thus repli'd
 'Was she thy God, that her thou didst obey 145
 Before his voice, or was she made thy guide,
 Superior, or but equal, that to her
 Thou didst resign thy manhood, and the place
 Wherein God set thee above her made of thee,
 And for thee, whose perfection far excell'd 150
 Hers in all real dignity? Adorn'd
 She was indeed, and lovely to attract,
 Thy love, not thy subjection, and her gifts
 Were such as under government well seem'd,
 Unseemly to bear rule, which was thy part 155
 And person, hadst thou known thyself aright'

So having said, he thus to Eve in few

'Say, Woman, what is this which thou hast done?'

To whom sad Eve with shame nigh overwhelm'd,
Confessing soon, yet not before her Judge 160
Bold or loquacious, thus abasht repli'd

'The serpent me begul'd and I did eat'

Which when the Lord God heard, without delay
To judgment he proceeded on th' accus'd
Serpent though brute, unable to transfer 165
The guilt on him who made him instrument
Of mischief, and polluted from the end
Of his creation, justly then accurst

As vitiated in nature more to know
Concern'd not Man (since he no further knew) 170
Nor alter'd his offence, yet God at last
To Satan first in sin his doom appli'd,
Though in mysterious terms, judg'd as then best
And on the Serpent thus his curse let fall

'Because thou hast done this, thou art accurst 175
Above all cattle, each beast of the field,
Upon thy belly grovelling thou shalt go,
And dust shalt eat all the days of thy life
Between thee and the woman I will put
Enmity, and between thine and her seed, 180
Her seed shall bruise thy head, thou bruise his heel'

So spake this Oracle, then verifi'd
When Jesus son of Mary second Eve,
Saw Satan fall like lightning down from Heav'n,
Prince of the air, then rising from his grave, 185
Spoil'd principalities and powers, triumpht
In open show, and with ascension bright
Captivity led captive through the air,
The realm itself of Satan long usurp't,
Whom he shall tread at last under our feet, 190
Even he who now foretold his fatal bruise,
And to the woman thus his sentence turn'd

'Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply
By thy conception, children thou shalt bring
Sorrow forth, and to thy husband's will, 195

Thine shall submit, he over thee shall rule '
 On Adam last thus judgment he pronounc'd
 'Because thou hast heark'nd to the voice of thy wife,
 And eaten of the tree concerning which
 I charg'd thee, saying "Thou shalt not eat thereof," 200
 Curs'd is the ground for thy sake, thou in sorrow
 Shalt eat thereof all the days of thy life,
 Thorns also and thistles it shall bring thee forth
 Unbid, and thou shalt eat th' herb of th' field,
 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, 205
 Till thou return unto the ground, for thou
 Out of the ground wast taken, know thy birth,
 For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return '

So judg'd he Man, both Judge and Saviour sent,
 And th' instant stroke of death denounc't that day 210
 Remov'd far off; then pitying how they stood
 Before him naked to the air, that now
 Must suffer change, disdain'd not to begin
 Thenceforth the form of servant to assume,
 As when he wash'd his servants' feet so now 215
 As Father of his family he clad
 Their nakedness with skins of beasts, or slain,
 Or as the snake with youthful coat repaid,
 And thought not much to clothe his enemies
 Nor he their outward only with the skins 220
 Of beasts, but inward nakedness, much more
 Opprobrious, with his robe of righteousness,
 Arraying cover'd from his Father's sight
 To him with swift ascent he up return'd,
 Into his blissful bosom re-assum'd 225
 In glory as of old, to him appeas'd,
 All, though all-knowing, what had past with Man
 Recounted, mixing intercession sweet

Meanwhile ere thus was sinn'd and judg'd on Earth,
 Within the gates of Hell sat Sin and Death, 230
 In counterview within the gates, that now
 Stood open wide, belching outrageous flame
 Far into Chaos, since the fiend pass'd through,

Sin opening, who thus now to Death began

‘O son, why sit we here each other viewing 235

Idly, while Satan our great author thrives

In other worlds, and happier seat provides

For us his offspring dear? It cannot be

But that success attends him, if mishap,

Ere this he had return’d, with fury driv’n 240

By his avengers, since no place like this

Can fit his punishment, or their revenge

Methinks I feel new strength within me rise,

Wings growing, and dominion giv’n me large

Beyond this Deep, whatever draws me on, 245

Or sympathy, or some connatural force

Powerful at greatest distance to unite

With secret amity things of like kind

By secretest conveyance Thou my shade

Inseparable must with me along 250

For Death from Sin no power can separate

But lest the difficulty of passing back

Stay his return perhaps over this gulf

Impassable, impervious, let us try

Adventrous work, yet to thy power and mine 255

Not unagreeable, to found a path

Over this main from Hell to that new world

Where Satan now prevails, a monument

Of merit high to all th’ infernal host,

Easing their passage hence, for intercourse, 260

Or transmigration, as their lot shall lead

Nor can I miss the way, so strongly drawn

By this new-felt attraction and instinct’

Whom thus the meagre Shadow answer’d soon

‘Go whither fate and inclination strong 265

Leads thee, I shall not lag behind, nor err

The way, thou leading, such a scent I draw

Of carnage, prey innumerable, and taste

The savour of Death from all things there that live

Nor shall I to the work thou enterprisest 270

Be wanting, but afford thee equal aid’

So saying, with delight he snuff'd the smell
 Of mortal change on Earth As when a flock
 Of ravenous fowl, though many a league remote,
 Against the day of battle, to a field, 275
 Where armies lie encampt, come flying, lur'd
 With scent of living carcasses design'd
 For death, the following day, in bloody fight
 So scented the grim Feature, and upturn'd
 His nostril wide into the murky air, 280
 Sagacious of his quarry from so far
 Then both from out Hell-gates into the waste
 Wide anarchy of Chaos damp and dark
 Flew diverse, and with power (their power was great)
 Hovering upon the waters, what they met 285
 Solid or slimy, as in raging sea
 Tost up and down, together crowded drove,
 From each side shoaling towards the mouth of Hell
 As when two polar winds blowing adverse
 Upon the Cronian sea, together drive 290
 Mountains of ice, that stop th' imagin'd way
 Beyond Petsora eastward, to the rich
 Cathaian coast The aggregated soil
 Death with his mace petrific, cold and dry,
 As with a trident smote, and fix't as firm 295
 As Delos floating once, the rest his look
 Bound with Gorgonian rigor not to move,
 And with Asphaltic slime, broad as the gate,
 Deep to the roots of Hell the gather'd beach
 They fasten'd, and the mole immense wrought on 300
 Over the foaming Deep high archt, a bridge
 Of length prodigious, joining to the wall
 Immovable of this now fenceless World,
 Forfeited to Death, from hence a passage broad,
 Smooth, easy, inoffensive down to Hell. 305
 So, if great things to small may be compar'd,
 Xerxes, the liberty of Greece to yoke,
 From Susa his Memnonian palace high
 Came to the sea, and over Hellespont

Bridging his way, Europe with Asia join'd, 310
 And scourg'd with many a stroke th' indignant waves
 Now had they brought the work by wondrous art
 Pontifical, a ridge of pendent rock
 Over the vext abyss, following the track
 Of Satan, to the self-same place where he 315
 First lighted from his wing, and landed safe
 From out of Chaos, to the outside bare
 Of this round World with pins of adamant
 And chains they made all fast, too fast they made 320
 And durable, and now in little space
 The confines met of empyrean Heav'n
 And of this World, and on the left hand Hell
 With long reach interpos'd, three sev'ral ways
 In sight, to each of these three places led
 And now their way to Earth they had descri'd, 325
 To Paradise first tending, when behold
 Satan in likeness of an angel bright
 Betwixt the Centaur and the Scorpion steering
 His zenith, while the sun in Aries rose
 Disguis'd he came, but those his children dear 330
 Their parent soon discern'd, though in disguise
 He after Eve seduc't, unminded slunk
 Into the wood fast by, and changing shape
 To observe the sequel, saw his guileful act,
 By Eve, though all unweeting, seconded 335
 Upon her husband, saw their shame that sought
 Vain covertures, but when he saw descend
 The Son of God to judge them, terrifi'd
 He fled, not hoping to escape, but shun
 The present, fearing guilty what his wrath 340
 Might suddenly inflict, that past, return'd
 By night, and listening where the hapless pair
 Sat in their sad discourse, and various plaint,
 Thence gather'd his own doom, which understood
 Not instant, but of future time, with joy 345
 And tidings fraught, to Hell he now return'd,
 And at the brink of Chaos, near the foot

Of this new wondrous pontifice, unhop't
 Met who to meet him came, his offspring dear
 Great joy was at their meeting, and at sight 350
 Of that stupendious bridge his joy increas'd
 Long he admiring stood, till Sin, his fair
 Enchanting daughter, thus the silence broke
 'O parent, these are thy magnific deeds,
 Thy trophies, which thou view'st as not thine own, 355
 Thou art their author and prime architect
 For I no sooner in my heart divin'd,
 My heart, which by a secret harmony
 Still moves with thine, join'd in connexion sweet,
 That thou on Earth hadst prosper'd, which thy looks 360
 Now also evidence, but straight I felt,
 Though distant from thee worlds between, yet felt
 That I must after thee with this thy son,
 Such fatal consequence unites us three
 Hell could no longer hold us in her bounds, 365
 Nor this unvoyageable gulf obscure
 Detain from following thy illustrious track
 Thou hast achiev'd our liberty, confin'd
 Within Hell gates till now, thou us impow'rd
 To fortify thus far, and overlay 370
 With this portentous bridge the dark abyss
 Thine now is all this World, thy virtue hath won
 What thy hands builded not, thy wisdom gain'd
 With odds what war hath lost, and fully aveng'd
 Our foil in Heav'n, here thou shalt monarch reign, 375
 There didst not, there let him still victor sway,
 As battle hath adjudg'd, from this new World
 Retiring, by his own doom alienated,
 And henceforth monarchy with thee divide
 Of all things parted by th' empyreal bounds, 380
 His quadrature, from thy orbicular World,
 Or try thee now more dang'rous to his throne '
 Whom thus the Prince of Darkness answer'd glad
 'Fair daughter, and thou son and grandchild both,
 High proof ye now have giv'n to be the race

Of Satan (for I glory in the name,
Antagonist of Heaven's almighty King)
Amplly have merited of me, of all
Th' infernal empire, that so near Heav'ns door
Triumphal with triumphal act have met, 390
Mine with this glorious work, and made one realm
Hell and this World, one realm, one continent
Of easy thoroughfare Therefore while I
Descend through darkness, on your road with ease
To my associate powers, them to acquaint 395
With these successes, and with them rejoice,
You two this way, among these numerous orbs
All yours, right down to Paradise descend,
There dwell and reign in bliss, thence on the earth
Dominion exercise and in the air, 400
Chiefly on Man, sole lord of all declar'd,
Him first make sure your thrall, and lastly kill
My substitutes I send ye, and create
Plenipotent on earth, of matchless might
Issuing from me, on your joint vigor now 405
My hold of this new kingdom all depends,
Through Sin to Death expos'd by my exploit
If your joint power prevails, th' affairs of Hell
No detriment need fear, go and be strong '
So saying he dismiss'd them, they with speed 410
Their course through thickest constellations held
Spreading their bane, the blasted stars lookt wan,
And planets, planet-struck, real eclipse
Then suffer'd Th' other way Satan went down
The causey to Hell-gate, on either side 415
Disparted Chaos overbuilt exclaim'd,
And with rebounding surge the bars assaul'd,
That scorn'd his indignation through the gate,
Wide open and unguarded, Satan pass'd,
And all about found desolate, for those 420
Appointed to sit there, had left their charge,
Flown to the upper world, the rest were all
Far to the inland retir'd, about the walls

Of Pandemonium, city and proud seat
 Of Lucifer, so by allusion called, 425
 Of that bright star to Satan paragon'd
 There kept their watch the legions, while the Grand
 In council sat, solicitous what chance
 Might intercept their emperor sent, so he
 Departing gave command, and they observ'd 430
 As when the Tartar from his Russian foe
 By Astracan over the snowy plains
 Retires, or Bactrian Sophi from the horns
 Of Turkish crescent, leaves all waste beyond
 The realm of Aladule, in his retreat 435
 To Taurus or Casbeen so these the late
 Heav'n-banisht host, left desert utmost Hell
 Many a dark league, reduc't in careful watch
 Round their metropolis, and now expecting
 Each hour their great adventurer from the search 440
 Of foreign worlds he through the midst unmarkt,
 In show plebeian angel militant
 Of lowest order, past, and from the door
 Of that Plutonian hall, invisible
 Ascended his high throne, which under state 445
 Of richest texture spread, at th' upper end
 Was plac't in regal lustre Down a while
 He sate, and round about him saw unseen
 At last as from a cloud his fulgent head
 And shape star-bright appear'd, or brighter, clad 450
 With what permissive glory since his fall
 Was left him, or false glitter all amaz'd
 At that so sudden blaze, the Stygian throng
 Bent their aspect, and whom they wish'd beheld,
 Their mighty chief return'd loud was th' acclaim 455
 Forth rush'd in haste the great consulting peers,
 Rais'd from their dark divan, and with like joy
 Congratulant approach'd him, who with hand
 Silence, and with these words attention won
 'Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers,
 For in possession such, not only of right,

I call ye and declare ye now, return
 Successful beyond hope, to lead ye forth
 Triumphant out of this infernal pit
 Abominable, accurst, the house of woe, 465
 And dungeon of our tyrant now possess,
 As lords, a spacious World, to our native Heaven
 Little inferior, by my adventure hard
 With peril great achiev'd Long were to tell
 What I have done, what suffer'd, with what pain 470
 Voyag'd th' unreal, vast, unbounded Deep
 Of horrible confusion, over which
 By Sin and Death a broad way now is pav'd
 To expedite your glorious march, but I
 Toild out my uncouth passage, forc't to ride 475
 Th' untractable abyss, plung'd in the womb
 Of unoriginal Night and Chaos wild,
 That jealous of their secrets fiercely oppos'd
 My journey strange, with clamorous uproar
 Protesting Fate supreme, thence how I found 480
 The new-created World, which fame in Heav'n
 Long had foretold, a fabric wonderful
 Of absolute perfection, therein Man
 Plac't in a Paradise, by our exile
 Made happy, him by fraud I have seduc'd 485
 From his Creator, and the more to increase
 Your wonder, with an apple, he thereat
 Offended, worth your laughter, hath giv'n up
 Both his beloved Man and all his World,
 To Sin and Death a prey, and so to us, 490
 Without our hazard, labour, or alarm,
 To range in, and to dwell, and over Man
 To rule, as over all he should have rul'd
 True is, me also he hath judg'd, or rather
 Me not, but the brute serpent in whose shape 495
 Man I deceiv'd that which to me belongs,
 Is enmity, which he will put between
 Me and mankind, I am to bruise his heel,
 His seed, when is not set, shall bruise my head.

A world who would not purchase with a bruise, 500
 Or much more grievous pain ? Ye have th' account
 Of my performance what remains, ye gods,
 But up and enter now into full bliss ?'

So having said, awhile he stood, expecting
 Their universal shout and high applause 505
 To fill his ear, when contrary he hears
 On all sides, from innumerable tongues
 A dismal universal hiss, the sound
 Of public scorn, he wonder'd, but not long
 Had leisure, wond'ring at himself now more 510
 His visage drawn he felt to sharp and spare,
 His arms clung to his ribs, his legs entwining
 Each other, till supplanted down he fell
 A monstrous serpent on his belly prone,
 Reluctant, but in vain, a greater power 515
 Now rul'd him, punisht in the shape he sinn'd,
 According to his doom he would have spoke,
 But hiss for hiss return'd with forked tongue
 To forked tongue, for now were all transform'd
 Alike, to serpents all as accessories 520
 To his bold riot dreadful was the din
 Of hissing through the hall, thick swarming now
 With complicated monsters head and tail,
 Scorpion and Asp, and Amphisbæna due,
 Cerastes horn'd, Hydrus, and Ellops drear, 525
 And Dipsas (not so thick swarm'd once the soil
 Bedropt with blood of Gorgon, or the isle
 Ophiusa) but still greatest he the midst,
 Now dragon grown, larger than whom the sun
 Engender'd in the Pythian vale on slime, 530
 Huge Python, and his power no less he seem'd
 Above the rest still to retain, they all
 Him follow'd issuing forth to th' open field,
 Where all yet left of that revolted rout
 Heav'n-fall'n, in station stood or just array 535
 Sublime with expectation when to see
 In triumph issuing forth their glorious chief,

They saw, but other sight instead, a crowd
Of ugly serpents, horror on them fell,
And horrid sympathy, for what they saw, 540
They felt themselves now changing, down their arms,
Down fell both spear and shield, down they as fast,
And the dire hiss renew'd, and the dire form
Catcht by contagion, like in punishment,
As in their crime Thus was th' applause they meant,
Turn'd to exploding hiss, triumph to shame 546
Cast on themselves from their own mouths There stood
A grove hard by, sprung up with this their change,
His will who reigns above, to aggravate
Their penance, laden with fruit like that 550
Which grew in Paradise, the bait of Eve
Us'd by the Tempter on that prospect strange
Their earnest eyes they fix'd, imagining
For one forbidden tree a multitude
Now ris'n, to work them further woe or shame, 555
Yet parcht with scalding thirst and hunger fierce,
Though to delude them sent, could not abstain,
But on they roll'd in heaps, and up the trees
Climbing, sat thicker than the snake's locks
That curl'd Megæra greedily they pluck'd 560
The fruitage fair to sight, like that which grew
Near that bituminous lake where Sodom flam'd,
This more delusive, not the touch, but taste
Deceiv'd, they fondly thinking to allay
Their appetite with gust, instead of fruit 565
Chew'd bitter ashes, which th' offended taste
With spattering noise rejected oft they assay'd,
Hunger and thirst constraining, drugg'd as oft,
With hatefullest disrelish writh'd their jaws
With soot and cinders fill'd, so oft they fell 570
Into the same illusion, not as Man
Whom they triumph'd once lapst Thus were they plagu'd
And worn with famine, long and ceaseless hiss,
Till their lost shape, permitted, they resum'd,
Nearly enjoin'd, some say, to undergo 575

This annual humbling certain number'd days,
 To dash their pride, and joy for Man seduc't
 However some tradition they dispers'd
 Among the heathen of their purchase got,
 And fabl'd how the Serpent, whom they call'd 580
 Ophion with Eurynome, the wide-
 Encroaching Eve perhaps, had first the rule
 Of high Olympus, thence by Saturn driv'n
 And Ops, ere yet Dictæan Jove was born
 Meanwhile in Paradise the hellish pair 585
 Too soon arriv'd, Sin there in power before,
 Once actual, now in body, and to dwell
 Habitual habitant, behind her Death
 Close following pace for pace, not mounted yet
 On his pale horse to whom Sin thus began 590
 'Second of Satan sprung, all conquering Death,
 What think'st thou of our empire now, though earn'd
 With travail difficult, not better far
 Than still at Hell's dark threshold to have sat watch,
 Unnam'd, undreaded, and thyself half-starv'd?' 595
 Whom thus the Sin-born monster answer'd soon
 'To me, who with eternal famine pine,
 Alike is Hell, or Paradise, or Heaven,
 There best, where most with rævne I may meet,
 Which here, though plenteous, all too little seems 600
 To stuff this maw, this vast unhide-bound corps'
 To whom th' incestuous mother thus repl'd
 'Thou therefore on these herbs, and fruits, and flow'rs
 Feed first, on each beast next, and fish, and fowl,
 No homely morsels, and whatever thing 605
 The sithe of Time mows down, devour unspar'd,
 Till I in Man residing through the race,
 His thoughts, his looks, words, actions, all infect,
 And season him thy last and sweetest prey'
 This said, they both betook them several ways, 610
 Both to destroy, or unimmortal make
 All kinds, and for destruction to mature
 Sooner or later which th' Almighty seeing,

From his transcendant seat the saints among,
To those bright orders utter'd thus his voice 615
 'See with what heat these dogs of Hell advance
To waste and havoc yonder World, which I
So fair and good created, and had still
Kept in that state, had not the folly of Man
Let in these wasteful furies, who impute 620
Folly to me, so doth the Prince of Hell
And his adherents, that with so much ease
I suffer them to enter and possess
A place so heav'nly, and conniving seem
To gratify my scornful enemies, 625
That laugh, as if transported with some fit
Of passion, I to them had quitted all,
At random yielded up to their misrule,
And know not that I call'd and drew them thither,
My Hell-hounds, to lick up the draff and filth 630
Which Man's polluting sin with taint hath shed
On what was pure, till cramm'd and gorg'd, nigh buist
With suckt and glutted offal, at one sling
Of thy victorious arm, well-pleasing Son,
Both Sin, and Death, and yawning Grave at last 635
Through Chaos hurl'd, obstruct the mouth of Hell
For ever, and seal up his ravenous jaws
Then heav'n and Earth renew'd shall be made pure
To sanctity that shall receive no stain
Till then the curse pronounc't on both precedes' 640
He ended, and the heavenly audience loud
Sung Hallelujah, as the sound of seas,
Through multitude that sung 'Just are thy ways,
Righteous are thy decrees on all thy works,
Who can extenuate thee?' Next, to the Son, 645
'Destin'd Restorer of Mankind, by whom
New heav'n and Earth shall to the ages rise,
Or down from Heav'n descend' Such was their song,
While the Creator calling forth by name
His mighty angels gave them several charge, 650
As sorted best with present things The Sun

Had first his precept so to move, so shine,
 As might affect the Earth with cold and heat
 Scarce tolerable, and from the north to call
 Decrepit winter, from the south to bring 655
 Solstitial summer's heat To the blanc Moon
 Her office they prescrib'd, to th' other five,
 Their planetary motions and aspects
 In sextile, square, and trine, and opposite,
 Of noxious efficacy, and when to join 660
 In synod unbenign, and taught the fixt
 Their influence malignant when to show'r,
 Which of them rising with the sun, or falling,
 Should prove tempestuous to the Winds they set
 Then corners, when with bluster to confound 665
 Sea, air, and shore, the thunder when to roll
 With terror through the dark aerial hall
 Some say he bid his angels turn askance
 The poles of Earth twice ten degrees and more
 From the Sun's axle, they with labour push'd 670
 Oblique the centric globe some say the Sun
 Was bid turn reins from th' equinoctial road
 Like distant breadth to Taurus with the sev'n
 Atlantic Sisters, and the Spartan Twins
 Up to the Tropic Crab, thence down amain 675
 By Leo and the Virgin and the Scales,
 As deep as Capricorn, to bring in change
 Of seasons to each clime, else had the Spring
 Perpetual smil'd on Earth with vernant flowers,
 Equal in days and nights, except to those 680
 Beyond the polar circles, to them day
 Had unbenighted shone, while the low Sun
 To recompense his distance, in their sight
 Had rounded still th' horizon, and not known
 Or east or west, which had forbid the snow 685
 From cold Estotiland, and south as far
 Beneath Magellan At that tasted fruit
 The Sun, as from Thyestean banquet, turn'd
 His course intended, else how had the world

Inhabited, though sinless, more than now, 690
 Avoided pinching cold and scorching heat ?
 These changes in the heav'ns, though slow, produc'd
 Like change on sea and land, sideral blast,
 Vapour, and mist, and exhalation hot,
 Corrupt and pestilent now from the north 695
 Of Norumbega, and the Samoed shore
 Bursting their brazen dungeon, arm'd with ice
 And snow and hail and stormy gust and flaw,
 Boreas and Cæcias and Argestes loud
 And Thrascias rend the woods, and seas upturn, 700
 With adverse blast upturns them from the south
 Notus, and Afer black with thundrous clouds
 From Serrationa, thwart of these as fierce
 Forth rush the Levant and the Ponent winds
 Eurus and Zephyr, with their lateral noise 705
 Sirocco and Libecchio Thus began
 Outrage from lifeless things, but Discord first,
 Daughter of Sin, among th' irrational
 Death introduc'd through fierce antipathy
 Beast now with beast 'gan war, and fowl with fowl, 710
 And fish with fish, to graze the herb all leaving,
 Devour'd each other, nor stood much in awe
 Of Man, but fled him, or with count'nance grim
 Glar'd on him passing these were from without
 The growing miseries, which Adam saw 715
 Already in part, though hid in gloomiest shade,
 To sorrow abandon'd, but worse felt within,
 And in a troubl'd sea of passion tost,
 Thus to disburd'n sought with sad complaint
 'O miserable of happy' is this the end 720
 Of this new glorious World, and me so late
 The glory of that glory, who now become
 Accurst of blessed, hide me from the face
 Of God, whom to behold was then my highth

All that I eat or drink, or shall beget,
 Is propagated curse O voice once heard
 Delightfully, "Increase and multiply," 730
 Now death to hear! for what can I increase
 O multiply, but curses on my head?
 Who of all ages to succeed, but feeling
 The evil on him brought by me, will curse
 My head? "Ill fare our ancestor impure, 735
 For this we may thank Adam," but his thanks
 Shall be the execration, so besides
 Mine own that bide upon me, all from me
 Shall with a fierce reflux on me redound,
 On me as on their natural centre light 740
 Heavy, though in their place O fleeting joys
 Of Paradise, dear bought with lasting woes!
 Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay
 To mould me Man? did I solicit thee
 From darkness to promote me, or here place 745
 In this delicious garden? as my will
 Concurr'd not to my being, it were but right
 And equal to reduce me to my dust,
 Desirous to resign, and render back
 All I receiv'd, unable to perform 750
 Thy terms too hard, by which I was to hold
 The good I sought not To the loss of that,
 Sufficient penalty, why hast thou added
 The sense of endless woes? Inexplicable
 Thy justice seems, yet to say truth, too late 755
 I thus contest, then should have been refus'd
 Those terms, whatever, when they were propos'd
 Thou didst accept them, wilt thou enjoy the good
 Then cavil the conditions? and though God
 Made thee without thy leave, what if thy son 760
 Prove disobedient, and reprov'd, retort,
 "Wherefore didst thou beget me? I sought it not "
 Wouldst thou admit for his contempt of thee
 That proud excuse? yet him not thy election,
 But natural necessity begot

God made thee of choice his own, and of his own
To serve him, thy reward was of his grace,
Thy punishment then justly is at his will
Be it so, for I submit, his doom is fair,
That dust I am, and shall to dust return 770
O welcome hour whenever! why delays
His hand to execute what his decree
Fix'd on this day? why do I overlive?
Why am I mockt with death, and lengthn'd out
To deathless pain? how gladly would I meet 775
Mortality my sentence, and be earth
Insensible! how glad would lay me down
As in my mother's lap! there I should rest
And sleep secure, his dreadful voice no more
Would thunder in my ears, no fear of worse 780
To me and to my offspring would torment me
With cruel expectation Yet one doubt
Pursues me still, lest all I cannot die,
Lest that pure breath of life, the spirit of Man
Which God inspir'd, cannot together perish 785
With this corporeal clod, then in the grave,
Or in some other dismal place who knows
But I shall die a living death? O thought
Horrid, if true! yet why? it was but breath
Of life that sinn'd, what dies but what had life 790
And sin? the body properly hath neither
All of me then shall die let this appease
The doubt, since human reach no further knows
For though the Lord of all be infinite,
Is his wrath also? be it, Man is not so, 795
But mortal doom'd How can he exercise
Wrath without end on Man whom Death must end?
Can he make deathless Death? that were to make
Strange contradiction, which to God himself
Impossible is held, as argument 800
Of weakness, not of power Will he draw out,
For anger's sake, finite to infinite
In punisht Man, to satisfy his rigour

Satisfi'd never? that were to extend
 His sentence beyond dust and Nature's law, 805
 By which all causes else according still
 To the reception of their matter act,
 Not to th' extent of their own sphere But say
 That Death be not one stroke, as I suppos'd,
 Bereaving sense, but endless misery 810
 From this day onward, which I feel begun
 Both in me, and without me, and so last
 To perpetuity, Ay me, that fear
 Comes thundring back with dreadful revolution
 On my defenceless head! both Death and I 815
 Am found eternal, and incorporate both,
 Nor I on my part single, in me all
 Posterity stands curst Fair patrimony
 That I must leave ye, sons! O were I able
 To waste it all myself, and leave ye none! 820
 So disinherited how would ye bless
 Me now your curse! Ah, why should all mankind
 For one man's fault thus guiltless be condemn'd,
 If guiltless? But from me, what can proceed,
 But all corrupt, both mind and will deprav'd, 825
 Not to do only, but to will the same
 With me? how can they then acquitted stand
 In sight of God? Him after all disputes
 Forc't I absolve all my evasions vain,
 And reasonings, though through mazes, lead me still 830
 But to my own conviction first and last
 On me, me only, as the source and spring
 Of all corruption, all the blame lights due,
 So might the wrath Fond wish! couldst thou support
 That burden heavier than the Earth to bear, 835
 Than all the World much heavier, though divided
 With that bad Woman? Thus what thou desir'st
 And what thou fear'st, alike destroys all hope
 Of refuge, and concludes thee miserable,
 Beyond all past example and future, 840
 To Satan only like both crime and doom

O Conscience, into what abyss of fears
And horrors hast thou driv'n me, out of which
I find no way, from deep to deeper plung'd !'

Thus Adam to himself lamented loud 845
Through the still night, not now, as ere Man fell,
Wholesome and cool, and mild, but with black air
Accompanied, with damps and dreadful gloom,
Which to his evil conscience represented
All things with double terror on the ground 850
Outstretcht he lay, on the cold ground, and oft
Curs'd his creation, Death as oft accus'd
Of tardy execution, since denounc't
The day of his offence 'Why comes not Death,'
Said he, 'with one thrice-acceptable stroke 855
To end me?' Shall Truth fail to keep her word?
Justice divine not hast'n to be just?
But Death comes not at call, Justice divine
Mends not her slowest pace for prayers or cries
O woods, O fountains, hillocks, dales and bow'rs, 860
With other echo late I taught your shades
To answer, and resound far other song !'
Whom thus afflicted when sad Eve beheld,
Desolate where she sate, approaching nigh,
Soft words to his fierce passion she assay'd 865
But her with stern regard he thus repell'd
'Out of my sight, thou serpent' that name
Befits thee with him leagu'd, thyself as false
And hateful, nothing wants, but that thy shape,
Like his, and colour serpentine may show 870
Thy inward fraud, to warn all creatures from thee
Henceforth, lest that too heav'nly form, pretended
To hellish falsehood, snare them But for thee
I had persisted happy, had not thy pride
And wandering vanity, when least was safe, 875
Rejected my forewarning, and disdain'd
Not to be trusted, longing to be seen
Though by the Devil himself, him overweening
To over-reach, but with the serpent meeting

Fool'd and beguil'd, by him thou, I by thee, 880
 To trust thee from my side, imagin'd wise,
 Constant, mature, proof against all assaults,
 And understood not all was but a shew
 Rather than solid virtue, all but a rib
 Crooked by nature, bent, as now appears, 885
 More to the part sinister, from me diawn,
 Well if thrown out, as supernumerary
 To my just number found O why did God,
 Creator wise, that peopl'd highest Heav'n
 With spirits masculine, create at last 890
 This novelty on Earth, this fair defect
 Of Nature, and not fill the world at once
 With men as angels without feminine,
 Or find some other way to generate
 Mankind? this mischief had not then befall'n, 895
 And more that shall befall, innumerable
 Disturbances on Earth through female snares,
 And strait conjunction with this sex for either
 He never shall find out fit mate, but such
 As some misfortune brings him, or mistake, 900
 Or whom he wishes most shall seldom gain
 Through her perverseness, but shall see her gam'd
 By a far worse, or if she love, withheld
 By parents, or his happiest choice too late
 Shall meet, already linkt and wedlock-bound 905
 To a fell adversary, his hate or shame
 Which infinite calamity shall cause
 To human life, and household peace confound'
 He added not, and from her turn'd But Eve,
 Not so repulst, with tears that ceas'd not flowing 910
 And tresses all disorder'd, at his feet
 Fell humble, and embracing them, besought
 His peace, and thus proceeded in her plaint
 'Forsake me not thus, Adam, witness Heav'n
 What love sincere, and reverence in my heart 915
 I bear thee, and unweeting have offended,
 Unhappily deceiv'd, thy suppliant

I beg, and clasp thy knees, bereave me not,
Whereon I live, thy gentle looks, thy aid,
Thy counsel in this uttermost distress, 920
My only strength and stay forlorn of thee,
Whither shall I betake me, where subsist?
While yet we live, scarce one short hour perhaps,
Between us two let there be peace, both joining,
As join'd in injuries, one enmity 925
Against a foe by doom express assign'd us,
That cruel Serpent on me exercise not
Thy hatred for this misery befall'n,
On me already lost, me than thyself
More miserable, both have sinn'd, but thou 930
Against God only, I against God and thee,
And to the place of judgment will return,
There with my cries importune Heaven, that all
The sentence from thy head remov'd may light
On me, sole cause to thee of all this woe, 935
Me, me only just object of his ire'

She ended, weeping, and her lowly plight,
Immoveable till peace obtain'd from fault
Acknowledg'd and deplor'd, in Adam wrought
Commiseration, soon his heart relented 940
Towards her, his life so late and sole delight,
Now at his feet submissive in distress,
Creature so fair his reconciliation seeking,
His counsel whom she had displeas'd, his aid,
As one disarm'd, his anger all he lost, 945
And thus with peaceful words uprais'd her soon

'Unwary, and too desirous, as before,
So now of what thou know'st not, who desir'st
The punishment all on thyself; alas,
Bear thine own first, ill able to sustain 950
His full wrath whose thou feel'st as yet least part,
And my displeasure bear'st so ill If prayers
Could alter high decrees, I to that place
Would speed before thee, and be louder heard,
~~That on my head all might be visited,~~ 955

Thy frailty and infirmer sex forgiv'n,
To me committed and by me expos'd
But rise, let us no more contend, nor blame
Each other, blam'd enough elsewhere, but strive
In offices of love, how we may light'n 960
Each other's burden in our share of woe,
Since this day's death denounc't, if aught I see,
Will prove no sudden, but a slow-pac't evil,
A long day's dying to augment our pain,
And to our seed, (O hapless seed!) deriv'd ' 965
To whom thus Eve, recovering heart, repli'd
'Adam, by sad experiment I know
How little weight my words with thee can find,
Found so erroneous, thence by just event
Found so unfortunate, nevertheless, 970
Restor'd by thee, vile as I am, to place
Of new acceptance, hopeful to regain
Thy love, the sole contentment of my heart
Living or dying, from thee I will not hide
What thoughts in my unquiet breast are ris'n, 975
Tending to some relief of our extremes,
Or end, though sharp and sad, yet tolerable,
As in our evils, and of easier choice
If care of our descent perplex us most,
Which must be born to certain woe, devour'd 980
By Death at last, and miserable it is
To be to others cause of misery,
Our own begotten, and of our loins to bring
Into this cursed world a woful race,
That after wretched life must be at last 985
Food for so foul a monster, in thy power
It lies, yet ere conception to prevent
The race unblest, to being yet unbegot
Childless thou art, childless remain so Death
Shall be deceiv'd his glut, and with us two 990
Be forc'd to satisfy his rav'nous maw
But if thou judge it hard and difficult,
Conversing, looking, loving, to abstain

From love's due rites, nuptial embraces sweet,
And with desire to languish without hope, 995
Before the present object languishing
With like desire, which would be misery
And torment less than none of what we dread,
Then both ourselves and seed at once to free
From what we fear for both, let us make short, 1000
Let us seek Death, or he not found, supply
With our own hands his office on ourselves,
Why stand we longer shivering under fears,
That show no end but death, and have the power
Of many ways to die the shortest choosing, 1005
Destruction with destruction to destroy?"

She ended here, or vehement despair
Broke off the rest, so much of death her thoughts
Had entertain'd, as dy'd her cheeks with pale
But Adam with such counsel nothing sway'd, 1010
To better hopes his more attentive mind
Labouring had rais'd, and thus to Eve repli'd
'Eve, thy contempt of life and pleasure seems
To argue in thee something more sublime
And excellent than what thy mind contemns, 1015
But self-destruction therefore sought, refutes
That excellence thought in thee, and implies,
Not thy contempt, but anguish and regret
For loss of life and pleasure overlov'd
Or if thou covet death, as utmost end 1020
Of misery, so thinking to evade
The penalty pronounc't, doubt not but God
Hath wiselier arm'd his vengeful ire than so
To be forestall'd, much more I fear lest death
So snatcht, will not exempt us from the pain 1025
We were by doom to pay, rather such acts
Of contumacy will provoke the Highest
To make death in us live "Then let us seek
Some safer resolution, which methinks
I have in view, calling to mind with heed 1030
Part of our sentence, that thy seed shall bruise

The Serpent's head, piteous amends, unless
 Be meant, whom I conjecture, our grand foe
 Satan, who in the Serpent hath contriv'd
 Against us this deceit to crush his head 1035
 Would be revenge indeed, which will be lost,
 By death brought on ourselves, or childless days
 Resolv'd, as thou proposest, so our foe
 Shall scape his punishment ordain'd, and we
 Instead shall double ours upon our heads 1040
 No more be mention'd then of violence
 Against ourselves, and wilful barrenness,
 That cuts us off from hope, and savours only
 Rancour and pride, impatience and despite,
 Reluctance against God and his just yoke 1045
 Laid on our necks Remember with what mild
 And gracious temper he both heard and judg'd
 Without wrath or reviling we expected
 Immediate dissolution, which we thought
 Was meant by Death that day, when lo, to thee 1050
 Pains only in child-bearing were foretold,
 And bringing forth, soon recompens't with joy,
 Fruit of thy womb on me the curse aslope
 Glanc'd on the ground, with labour I must earn
 My bread, what harm? Idleness had been worse, 1055
 My labour will sustain me, and lest cold
 Or heat should injure us, his timely care
 Hath unbesought provided, and his hands
 Cloth'd us unworthy, pitying while he judg'd
 How much more, if we pray him, will his ear 1060
 Be open, and his heart to pity incline,
 And teach us farther by what means to shun
 Th' inclement seasons, rain, ice, hail, and snow?
 Which now the sky with various face begins
 To show us in this mountain, while the winds 1065
 Blow moist and keen, shattering the graceful locks
 Of these fair spreading trees, which bids us seek
 Some better shroud, some better warmth to cherish
 Our limbs benumb'd, ere this diurnal star

Leave cold the night, how we his gather'd beams 1070
Reflected, may with matter sere foment,
Or by collision of two bodies grind
The air attrite to fire, as late the clouds
Justling, or pusht with winds rude in their shock 1074
Tine the slant lightning, whose thwart flame driv'n down
Kindles the gummy bark of fir or pine,
And sends a comfortable heat from far,
Which might supply the sun such fire to use,
And what may else be remedy or cure
To evils which our own misdeeds have wrought, 1080
He will instruct us praying, and of grace
Beseeching him, so as we need not fear
To pass commodiously this life, sustain'd
By him with many comforts, till we end
In dust, our final rest and native home 1085
What better can we do, than to the place
Repairing where he judg'd us, prostrate fall
Before him reverent ? and there confess
Humbly our faults, and pardon beg, with tears
Watering the ground, and with our sighs the air 1090
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign
Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek
Undoubtedly he will relent and turn
From his displeasure, in whose look serene,
When angry most he seem'd and most severe, 1095
What else but favour, grace, and mercy shon ?"
So spake our father penitent, nor Eve
Felt less remorse they forthwith to the place
Repairing where he judg'd them, prostrate fell
Before him reverent, and both confess'd 1100
Humbly their faults, and pardon begg'd, with tears
Watering the ground, and with their sighs the air
Frequenting, sent from hearts contrite, in sign
Of sorrow unfeign'd, and humiliation meek

BOOK XI

THE ARGUMENT

The Son of God presents to his Father the prayers of our first parents now repenting, and intercedes for them. God accepts them, but declares that they must no longer abide in Paradise. sends Michael with a band of cherubim to dispossess them, but first to reveal to Adam future things. Michael's coming down. Adam shows to Eve certain ominous signs, he discerns Michael's approach, goes out to meet him, the angel denounces their departure. Eve's lamentation. Adam pleads, but submits. The angel leads him up to a high hill, sets before him in vision what shall happen till the Flood.

THUS they in lowliest plight repentant stood
Praying, for from the mercy-seat above
Prevenient grace descending had remov'd
The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh
Regenerate grow instead, that sighs now breath'd 5
Unutterable, which the Spirit of prayer
Inspir'd, and wing'd for Heav'n with speedier flight
Than loudest oratory: yet their port
Not of mean suitors, nor important less
Seem'd their petition, than when th' ancient pair 10
In fables old, less ancient yet than these,
Deucalion and chaste Pyrrha to restore
The race of mankind drown'd, before the shrine
Of Themis stood devout. To Heav'n their prayers
Flew up, nor miss'd the way, by envious winds 15
Blown vagabond or frustrate in they pass'd
Dimensionless through Heav'nly doors, then clad

With incense, where the golden altar fum'd,
 By their great Intercessor, came in sight
 Before the Father's throne them the glad Son 20
 Presenting, thus to intercede began

'See, Father, what first fruits on Earth are sprung
 From thy implanted grace in Man, these sighs
 And prayers, which in this golden censer, mixt
 With incense, I thy Priest before thee bring, 25
 Fruits of more pleasing savour from thy seed
 Sown with contrition in his heart, than those
 Which his own hand manuring all the trees
 Of Paradise could have produc't, ere fall'n
 From innocence Now therefore bend thine ear 30
 To supplication, hear his sighs though mute,
 Unskilful with what words to pray, let me
 Interpret for him, me his Advocate
 And propitiation, all his works on me
 Good or not good ingraft, my merit those 35
 Shall perfet, and for these my death shall pay
 Accept me, and in me from these receive
 The smell of peace toward Mankind, let him live
 Before thee reconcil'd, at least his days
 Number'd, though sad, till death, his doom (which I 40
 To mitigate thus plead, not to reverse)
 To better life shall yield him, where with me
 All my redeem'd may dwell in joy and bliss,
 Made one with me as I with thee am one'

To whom the Father, without cloud, serene 45
 'All thy request for Man, accepted Son,
 Obtain, all thy request was my decree
 But longer in that Paradise to dwell,
 The law I gave to Nature him forbids
 Those pure immortal elements that know 50
 No gross, no inharmonious mixture foul,
 Eject him tainted now, and purge him off
 As a canker, gross to air as gross,
 And mortal food, as may dispose him best
 For dissolution wrought by Sin, that first 55

Distemper'd all things, and of incorrupt
Corrupted I at first with two fair gifts
Created him endow'd, with happiness
And immortality that fondly lost,
This other serv'd but to eternize woe, 60
Till I provided death, so death becomes
His final remedy, and after life
Tri'd in sharp tribulation, and refin'd
By faith and faithful works, to second life,
Wak't in the renovation of the just, 65
Resigns him up with heav'n and Earth renew'd
But let us call to synod all the blest
Through Heav'ns wide bounds, from them I will not hide
My judgments, how with Mankind I proceed,
As how with peccant angels late they saw, 70
And in their state, though firm, stood more confirm'd'
He ended, and the Son gave signal high
To the bright minister that watch'd he blew
His trumpet, heard in Oreb since perhaps
When God descended, and perhaps once more 75
To sound at general doom Th' angelic blast
Fill'd all the regions from their blissful bowrs
Of amarantine shade, fountain or spring,
By the waters of life, where'er they sate
In fellowships of joy, the Sons of Light 80
Hasted, resorting to the summons high,
And took their seats, till from his throne supreme,
Th' Almighty thus pronounc'd his sovran will
'O Sons, like one of us Man is become
To know both good and evil, since his taste 85
Of that defended fruit, but let him boast
His knowledge of good lost, and evil got,
Happier, had't suffic'd him to have known
Good by itself, and evil not at all
He sorrows now, repents, and prays contrite, 90
My motions in him, longer than they move,
His heart I know, how variable and vain
Self-left Lest therefore his now bolder hand

Reach also of the tree of Life, and eat,
 And live for ever, dream at least to live 95
 For ever, to remove him I decree,
 And send him from the garden forth to till
 The ground whence he was taken, fitter soil
 'Michael, this my behest have thou in charge,
 Take to thee from among the cherubim 100
 Thy choice of flaming warriors, lest the Fiend
 Or in behalf of Man, or to invade
 Vacant possession some new trouble raise
 Haste thee, and from the Paradise of God
 Without remorse drive out the sinful pair, 105
 From hallow'd ground th' unholy, and denounce
 To them and to their progeny from thence
 Perpetual banishment Yet lest they faint
 At the sad sentence rigorously urg'd,
 For I behold them softn'd and with tears 110
 Bewailing their excess, all terror hide
 If patiently thy bidding they obey,
 Dismiss them not disconsolate, reveal
 To Adam what shall come in future days,
 As I shall thee enlighten, intermix 115
 My covenant in the woman's seed renew'd,
 So send them forth, though sorrowing, yet in peace
 And on the east side of the garden place,
 Where entrance up from Eden easiest climbs,
 Cherubic watch, and of a sword the flame 120
 Wide-waving, all approach far off to fright,
 And guard all passage to the tree of Life
 Lest Paradise a receptacle prove
 To spirits foul, and all my trees their prey,
 With whose stol'n fruit Man once more to delude * 125
 He ceas'd and th' archangelic Power prepar'd
 For swift descent, with him the cohort bright
 Of watchful cherubim, four faces each
 Had, like a double Janus, all their shape
 Spangl'd with eyes more numerous than those 130
 Of Angels, and more wakeful than to drowse,

Charm'd with Arcadian pipe, the pastoral reed
 Of Hermes, or his opiate rod Meanwhile,
 To re-salute the world with sacred light
 Leucothea wak'd, and with fresh dewes embalm'd 135
 The Earth, when Adam and first matron Eve
 Had ended now their orisons, and found
 Strength added from above, new hope to spring
 Out of despair, joy, but with fear yet linkt,
 Which thus to Eve his welcome words renew'd 140
 'Eve, easily may faith admit, that all,
 The good which we enjoy, from Heav'n descends,
 But that from us aught should ascend to Heav'n
 So prevalent as to concern the mind
 Of God high-blest, or to incline his will, 145
 Hard to belief may seem, yet this will prayer,
 Or one short sigh of human breath, upboine
 Ev'n to the seat of God For since I sought
 By prayer th' offended Deity to appease,
 Kneel'd, and before him humbl'd all my heart, 150
 Methought I saw him placable and mild,
 Bending his ear, persuasion in me grew
 That I was heard with favour, peace return'd
 Home to my breast, and to my memory
 His promise, that thy Seed shall bruise our Foe; 155
 Which then not minded in dismay, yet now
 Assures me, that the bitterness of death
 Is past, and we shall live Whence hail to thee,
 Eve rightly call'd, Mother of all Mankind,
 Mother of all things living, since by thee 160
 Man is to live, and all things live for Man'
 To whom thus Eve, with sad demeanour meek
 'Ill worthy I such title should belong
 To me transgressor, who for thee ordain'd
 A help, became thy snare, to me reproach 165
 Rather belongs, distrust and all dispraise
 But infinite in pardon was my Judge,
 That I who first brought Death on all, am grac't
 The source of life next favourable thou,

Who highly thus to entitle me voutsaf'st,
Far other name deserving ' But the field
To labour calls us, now with sweat impos'd,
Though after sleepless night, for see the Morn,
All unconcern'd with our unrest, begins
Her rosy progress smiling, let us forth,
I never from thy side henceforth to stray,
Where'er our day's work lies, though now enjoin'd
Laborious, till day droop, while here we dwell,
What can be toilsome in these pleasant walks?
Here let us live, though in fall'n state, content ' 170

So spake, so wish'd much-humbled Eve, but Fate
Subscrib'd not Nature first gave signs, imprint
On bird, beast, air, air suddenly eclips'd
After short blush of morn, nigh in her sight
The bird of Jove, stoopt from his aery tour,
Two birds of gayest plume before him drove,
Down from a hill the beast that reigns in woods,
First hunter then, pursu'd a gentle brace,
Goodliest of all the forest, hart and hind,
Direct to th' eastern gate was bent their flight
Adam observ'd, and with his eye the chase
Pursuing, not unmov'd to Eve thus spake 185

' O Eve, some further change awaits us nigh,
Which Heav'n by these mute signs in Nature shews
Forerunners of his purpose, or to warn
Us haply too secure of our discharge
From penalty, because from death releast
Some days, how long, and what till then our life,
Who knows? or, more than this, that we are dust,
And thither must return and be no more
Why else this double object in our sight
Of flight, pursu'd in th' air and o'er the ground
One way the self-same hour? why in the east
Darkness ere day's mid-course, and morning light
More orient in yon western cloud that draws
O'er the blue firmament a radiant white,
And slow descends, with something Heav'nly fraught? ' 190

He err'd not, for by this the Heav'nly bands
 Down from a sky of jasper lighted now
 In Paradise, and on a hill made halt, 210
 A glorious apparition, had not doubt
 And carnal fear that day dimm'd Adam's eye
 Not that more glorious, when the angels met
 Jacob in Mahanaim, where he saw
 The field pavilion'd with his guardians bright, 215
 Nor that which on the flaming mount appear'd
 In Dothan, cover'd with a camp of fire,
 Against the Syrian king, who to surprise
 One man, assassin-like had levied war,
 War unproclam'd The princely Hierarch 220
 In their bright stand there left his powers, to seize
 Possession of the garden, he alone,
 To find where Adam shelter'd, took his way,
 Not unperceiv'd of Adam, who to Eve,
 While the great visitant approach'd, thus spake 225
 'Eve, now expect great tidings, which perhaps
 Of us will soon determine, or impose
 New laws to be observ'd, for I descry
 From yonder blazing cloud that veils the hill,
 One of the Heav'nly host, and by his gart 230
 None of the meanest, some great Potentate
 Or of the Thrones above, such majesty
 Invests him coming, yet not terrible,
 That I should fear, nor sociably mild,
 As Raphael, that I should much confide, 235
 But solemn and sublime, whom not to offend,
 With reverence I must meet, and thou retire'
 He ended, and th' archangel soon drew nigh,
 Not in his shape celestial, but as Man
 Clad to meet Man, over his lucid arms 240
 A military vest of purple flow'd
 Livelier than Melibœan, or the gram
 Of Sarra, worn by kings and heroes old
 In time of truce, Iris had dypt the woof,
 His starry helm unbuckl'd shew'd him prince 245

In manhood where youth ended, by his side
As in a glistering zodiac hung the sword,
Satan's dire dread, and in his hand the spear
Adam bow'd low, he kingly from his state
Inclin'd not, but his coming thus declar'd 250

' Adam, Heav'n's high behest no preface needs
Sufficient that thy prayers are heard, and Death,
Then due by sentence when thou didst transgress,
Defeated of his seizure many days
Giv'n thee of grace, wherein thou may'st repent, 255
And one bad act with many deeds well done
Mayst cover well may then thy Lord appeas'd,
Redeem thee quite from Death's rapacious claim,
But longer in this Paradise to dwell
Permits not, to remove thee I am come, 260
And send thee from the garden forth to till
The ground whence thou wast tak'n, fitter soil'

He added not, for Adam at the news
Heart-struck with chilling gripe of sorrow stood,
That all his senses bound, Eve, who unseen 265
Yet all had heard, with audible lament
Discover'd soon the place of her retire

' O unexpected stroke, worse than of Death'
Must I thus leave thee, Paradise? thus leave
Thee, native soil, these happy walks and shades, 270
Fit haunt of gods? where I had hope to spend,
Quiet though sad, the respite of that day
That must be mortal to us both O flow'rs,
That never will in other climate grow,
My early visitation, and my last 275

At ev'n, which I bred up with tender hand,
From the first op'ning bud, and gave ye names,
Who now shall rear ye to the sun, or rank
Your tribes, and water from th' ambrosial fount?
Thee lastly nuptial bower, by me adorn'd 280
With what to sight or smell was sweet, from thee
How shall I part? and whither wander down
Into a lower world, to this obscure

And wild? how shall we breathe in other air
 Less pure, accustom'd to immortal fruits?' 285

Whom thus the angel interrupted mild
 'Lament not, Eve, but patiently resign
 What justly thou hast lost, nor set thy heart,
 Thus overfond, on that which is not thine,
 Thy going is not lonely, with thee goes 290
 Thy husband, him to follow thou art bound,
 Where he abides, think there thy native soil'

Adam by this from the cold sudden damp
 Recovering, and his scatter'd spirits return'd,
 To Michael thus his humble words adress'd 295

'Celestial, whether among the Thrones, or nam'd
 Of them the highest, for of such shape may seem
 Prince above princes, gently hast thou told
 Thy message, which might else in telling wound,
 And in performing end us, what besides 300

Of sorrow and dejection and despair
 Our frailty can sustain, thy tidings bring,
 Departure from this happy place, our sweet
 Recess, and only consolation left
 Familiar to our eyes, all places else 305
 Inhospitable appear and desolate,

Nor knowing us nor known and if by prayer
 Incessant I could hope to change the will
 Of him who all things can, I would not cease
 To weary him with my assiduous cries 310

But prayer against his absolute decree
 No more avails than breath against the wind,
 Blown stifling back on him that breathes it forth
 Therefore to his great bidding I submit
 This most afflicts me, that departing hence, 315

As from his face I shall be hid, depriv'd
 His blessed count'nance, here I could frequent
 With worship, place by place, where he voutsaf't
 Presence divine, and to my sons relate,
 "On this mount he appear'd, under this tree 320
 Stood visible, among these pines his voice

I heard, here with him at this fountain talk'd "
So many grateful altars I would rear
Of grassy turf, and pile up every stone
Of lustre from the brook, in memory, 325
Or monument to ages, and thereon
Offer sweet smelling gums and fruits and flow'rs
In yonder nether world where shall I seek
His bright appearances, or footstep trace?
For though I fled him angry, yet recall'd 330
To life prolong'd and promis'd race, I now
Gladly behold though but his utmost skirts
Of glory, and far off his steps adore'
To whom thus Michael with regard benign
'Adam, thou know'st Heav'n his, and all the Earth, 335
Not this rock only, his omnipresence fills
Land, sea, and air, and every kind that lives,
Fomented by his virtual power and warm'd
All th' Earth he gave thee to possess and rule,
No despicable gift, surmise not then 340
His presence to these narrow bounds confin'd
Of Paradise or Eden this had been
Perhaps thy capital seat, from whence had spread
All generations, and had hither come
From all the ends of th' Earth, to celebrate 345
And reverence thee their great progenitor
But this pre-eminence thou hast lost, brought down
To dwell on even ground now with thy sons
Yet doubt not but in valley and in plain
God is as here, and will be found alike 350
Present, and of his presence many a sign
Still following thee, still compassing thee round
With goodness and paternal love, his face
Express, and of his steps the track divine
Which that thou mayst believe, and be confirm'd 355
Ere thou from hence depart, know I am sent
To show thee what shall come in future days,
To thee and to thy offspring, good with bad
Expect to hear, supernal grace contending

With sinfulness of men, thereby to learn 360
 True patience, and to temper joy with fear
 And pious sorrow, equally inur'd
 By moderation either state to bear,
 Prosperous or adverse so shalt thou lead
 Safest thy life, and best prepar'd endure 365
 Thy mortal passage when it comes Ascend
 This hill, let Eve (for I have drencht her eyes)
 Here sleep below while thou to foresight wak'st,
 As once thou slept'st, while she to life was form'd'
 To whom thus Adam gratefully repli'd 370
 'Ascend, I follow thee, safe guide, the path
 Thou leadst me, and to the hand of Heav'n submit,
 However chast'ning, to the evil turn
 My obvious breast, arming to overcome
 By suffering, and earn rest from labour won, 375
 If so I may attain' So both ascend
 In the visions of God it was a hill
 Of Paradise the highest, from whose top
 The hemisphere 'of Earth in clearest ken
 Stretcht out to the amplest reach of prospect lay 380
 Not higher that hill nor wider looking round,
 Whereon for different cause the Tempter set
 Our second Adam in the wilderness,
 To show him all earth's kingdoms and their glory
 His eye might there command wherever stood 385
 City of old or modern fame, the seat
 Of mightiest empire, from the destin'd walls
 Of Cambalu, seat of Cathaian Can,
 And Samarcand by Oxus, Temir's throne,
 To Paquin of Sinæan kings, and thence 390
 To Agra and Lahor of great Mogul,
 Down to the golden Chersonese, or where
 The Persian in Ecbatan sat, or since
 In Hispahan, or where the Russian Ksar
 In Mosco, or the Sultan in Bizançe, 395
 Turchestan-born, nor could his eye not ken
 The empire of Negus to his utmost port

Ercoco, and the less maritime kings
 Mombaza, and Quiloa, and Melind,
 And Sofala thought Ophir, to the realm 400
 Of Congo, and Angola farthest south,
 Or thence from Niger flood to Atlas mount
 The kingdoms of Almansor, Fez, and Sus,
 Morocco and Algiers, and Tremisen,
 Or Europe thence, and where Rome was to sway 405
 The world in spirit perhaps he also saw
 Rich Mexico the seat of Montezume,
 And Cusco in Peru, the richer seat
 Of Atabalpa, and yet unspoil'd
 Guana, whose great city Geryon's sons 410
 Call El Dorado but to nobler sights
 Michael from Adam's eyes the film remov'd
 Which that false fruit that promis'd clearer sight
 Had bred, then purg'd with euphrasy and rue
 The visual nerve, for he had much to see, 415
 And from the well of Life three drops instill'd
 So deep the power of these ingredients pierc'd,
 E'en to the inmost seat of mental sight,
 That Adam now enforc't to close his eyes
 Sunk down, and all his spirits became entranc't 420
 But him the gentle angel by the hand
 Soon rais'd, and his attention thus recall'd
 'Adam, now ope thine eyes, and first behold
 Th' effects which thy original crime hath wrought
 In some to spring from thee, who never touch'd 425
 Th' excepted tree, nor with the snake conspir'd,
 Nor sinn'd thy sin, yet from that sin derive
 Corruption to bring forth more violent deeds'
 His eyes he open'd, and beheld a field,
 Part arable and tilth, whereon were sheaves 430
 New reapt, the other part sheepwalks and folds,
 Ith' midst an altar as the landmark stood
 Rustic, of grassy sord, thither anon
 A sweaty reaper from his tillage brought
 First fruits, the green ear, and the yellow sheaf 435

Uncull'd, as came to hand, a shepherd next
More meek came with the firstlings of his flock
Choicest and best, then sacrificing, laid
The inwards and their fat, with incense strow'd,
On the cleft wood, and all due rites perform'd 440
His offering soon propitious fire from Heav'n
Consum'd with nimble glance, and grateful steam,
The other's not, for his was not sincere,

Whereat he only rag'd, and as they talk'd,
Smote him into the midriff with a stone 445
That beat out life, he fell, and deadly pale
Groan'd out his soul with gushing blood effus'd
Much at that sight was Adam in his heart
Dismay'd, and thus in haste to th' angel cri'd
'O teacher, some great mischief hath befall'n 450
To that meek man, who well had sacrific'd,
Is piety thus and pure devotion paid?'

T'whom Michael thus, he also mov'd, repli'd
'These two are brethren, Adam, and to come
Out of thy loins, th' unjust the just hath slain, 455
For envy that his brother's offering found
From Heav'n acceptance, but the bloody fact
Will be aveng'd, and th' other's faith approv'd
Lose no reward, though here thou see him die,
Rolling in dust and gore' To which our sire 460

'Alas, both for the deed and for the cause'
But have I now seen Death? Is this the way
I must return to native dust? O sight
Of terror, foul and ugly to behold,
Horrid to think, how horrible to feel!' 465

To whom thus Michael 'Death thou hast seen
In his first shape on man but many shapes
Of Death, and many are the ways that lead
To his grim cave, all dismal, yet to sense
More terrible at th' entrance than within 470
Some, as thou saw'st, by violent stroke shall die,
By fire, flood, famine, by intemperance more,
In meats and drinks, which on the Earth shall bring

Diseases dire, of which a monstrous crew
 Before thee shall appear, that thou mayst know 475
 What misery th' inabstinence of Eve
 Shall bring on men Immediately a place
 Before his eyes appear'd, sad, noisome, dark,
 A lazar-house it seem'd, wherein were laid
 Numbers of all diseas'd, all maladies 480
 Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms
 Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds,
 Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,
 Intestine stone and ulcer, colic pangs,
 Demoniac frenzy, moping melancholy 485
 And moon-struck madness, pining atrophy,
 Marasmus, and wide-wasting pestilence,
 Dropsies, and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums
 Dire was the tossing, deep the groans, Despair
 Tended the sick busiest from couch to couch, 490
 And over them triumphant Death his dart
 Shook, but delay'd to strike, though oft invol't
 With vows, as their chief good, and final hope
 Sight so deform what heart of rock could long
 Dry-ey'd behold? Adam could not, but wept, 495
 Though not of woman born, compassion quell'd
 His best of man, and gave him up to tears
 A space, till firmer thoughts restrain'd excess,
 And scarce recovering words his plaint renew'd
 'O miserable mankind, to what fall 500
 Degraded, to what wretched state reserv'd!
 Better end here unborn Why is life giv'n,
 To be thus wrested from us? rather why
 Obtruded on us thus? who if we knew
 What we receive, would either not accept 505
 Life offer'd, or soon beg to lay it down,
 Glad to be so dismiss'd in peace Can thus
 Th' image of God in Man created once
 So goodly and erect, though faulty since,
 To such unsightly sufferings be debas't 510
 Under inhuman pains? why should not Man,

Retaining still divine similitude
 In part, from such deformities be free,
 And for his Maker's image sake exempt '
 'Their Maker's image,' answer'd Michael, 'then 515
 Forsook them, when themselves they vilifi'd
 To serve ungovern'd Appetite, and took
 His image whom they serv'd, a brutish vice,
 Inductive mainly to the sin of Eve
 Therefore so object is their punishment, 520
 Disfiguring not God's likeness, but their own,
 Or if his likeness, by themselves defac't
 While they pervert pure Nature's healthful rules
 To loathsome sickness, worthily, since they
 God's image did not reverence in themselves ' 525
 'I yield it just,' said Adam, 'and submit
 But is there yet no other way, besides
 These painful passages, how we may come
 To death, and mix with our connatural dust '
 'There is,' said Michael, 'if thou well observe 530
 The rule of not too much, by temperance taught,
 In what thou eat'st and drink'st, seeking from thence
 Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,
 Till many years over thy head return
 So may'st thou live, till like ripe fruit thou drop 535
 Into thy mother's lap, or be with ease
 Gather'd, not harshly pluckt, for death mature
 This is old age, but then thou must outlive
 Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty, which will change
 To wither'd, weak, and gray, thy senses then 540
 Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must forego
 To what thou hast, and for the air of youth
 Hopeful and cheerful, in thy blood will reign
 A melancholy damp of cold and dry
 To weigh thy spirits down, and last consume 545
 The balm of life ' To whom our ancestor
 'Henceforth I fly not Death, nor would prolong
 Life much, bent rather how I may be quit
 Fairest and easiest of this cumbrous charge ,

Which I must keep till my appointed day 550
 Of rendring up, and patiently attend
 My dissolution' Michael repli'd

'Nor love thy life, nor hate, but what thou liv'st,
 Live well, how long or short permit to Heav'n
 And now prepare thee for another sight' 555

He look'd, and saw a spacious plain, whereon
 Were tents of various hue, by some were herds
 Of cattle grazing, others whence the sound
 Of instruments that made melodious chime
 Was heard, of harp and organ, and who mov'd 560

Their stops and chords was seen, his volant touch
 Instinct, through all proportions low and high
 Fled and pursu'd transverse the resonant fugue
 In other part stood one who at the forge
 Labouring, two massy clods of iron and brass 565

Had melted, (whether found where casual fire
 Had wasted woods on mountain or in vale,
 Down to the veins of earth, thence gliding hot
 To some cave's mouth, or whether washt by stream
 From underground,) the liquid ore he drain'd 570

Into fit moulds prepar'd from which he form'd,
 First his own tools, then, what might else be wrought
 Fusil or grav'n in metal After these,
 But on the hither side, a different sort
 From the high neighbouring hills, which was their seat, 575

Down to the plain descended by their guise
 Just men they seem'd, and all their study bent
 To worship God aright, and know his works
 Not hid, nor those things last which might preserve
 Freedom and peace to men they on the plain 580

Long had not walkt, when from the tents behold
 A beyy of fair women, richly gay

In gems and wanton dress, to the harp they sung
 Soft amorous ditties, and in dance came on
 The men though grave, ey'd them, and let their eyes 585

Rove without rein, till in the amorous net
 Fast caught, they lik'd, and each his liking chose,

And now of love they treat, till th' ev'ning star
 Love's harbinger appear'd, then all in heat
 They light the nuptial torch, and bid invoke 590
 Hymen, then first to marriage rites invok't
 With feast and music all the tents resound
 Such happy interview and fair event
 Of love and youth not lost, songs, garlands, flow'rs,
 And charming symphonies, attach'd the heart 595
 Of Adam, soon inclin'd to admit delight,
 The bent of Nature, which he thus express'd
 'True opener of mine eyes, prime angel blest,
 Much better seems this vision, and more hope
 Of peaceful days portends, than those two past, 600
 Those were of hate, and death, or pain much worse,
 Here Nature seems fulfill'd in all her ends'
 To whom thus Michael 'Judge not what is best
 By pleasure, though to Nature seeming meet,
 Created, as thou art, to nobler end, 605
 Holy and pure, conformity divine
 Those tents thou saw'st so pleasant, were the tents
 Of wickedness, wherein shall dwell his race
 Who slew his brother, studious they appear
 Of arts that polish life, inventors rare, 610
 Unmindful of their Maker, though his Spirit
 Taught them, but they his gifts acknowledg'd none
 Yet they a beauteous offspring shall beget,
 For that fair female troop thou saw'st, that seem'd
 Of goddesses, so blithe, so smooth, so gay, 615
 Yet empty of all good wherein consists
 Woman's domestic honour and chief praise,
 Bred only and completed to the taste
 Of lustful appetite, to sing, to dance,
 To dress, and troll the tongue, and roll the eye, 620
 To these that sober race of men, whose lives
 Religious utl'd them the sons of God,
 Shall yield up all their virtue, all their fame
 Ignobly, to the trains and to the smiles
 Of these fair atheists, and now swim in joy, 625

(Ere long to swim at large) and laugh, for which
The world ere long a world of tears must weep'

To whom thus Adam of short joy bereft
'O pity and shame, that they who to live well
Enter'd so fair, should turn aside to tread 630
Paths indirect, or in the mid way faint'
But still I see the tenor of Man's woe
Hold on the same, from Woman to begin'

'From Man's effeminate slackness it begins,'
Said th' angel, 'who should better hold his place, 635
By wisdom, and superior gifts receiv'd
But now prepare thee for another scene'

He look'd, and saw wide territory spread
Before him, towns, and rural works between,
Cities of men with lofty gates and towrs, 640
Concourse in arms, fierce faces threatening war,
Giants of mighty bone, and bold emprise,
Part wield their arms, part curb the foaming steed,
Single or in array of battle rang'd,
Both horse and foot, nor idly mustering stood 645
One way a band select from forage drives
A herd of beeves, fair oxen and fair kine,
From a fat meadow ground, or fleecy flock,
Ewes and their bleating lambs over the plain,
Their booty, scarce with life the shepherds fly, 650
But call in aid, which makes a bloody fray,
With cruel tournament the squadrons join,
Where cattle pastur'd late, now scatter'd lies
With carcases and arms, th' ensanguin'd field
Deserted Others to a city strong 655
Lay siege, encampt, by battery, scale, and mine,
Assaulting, others from the wall defend
With dart and jav'lin, stones and sulphurous fire,
On each hand slaughter and gigantic deeds
In other part the scepter'd heralds call 660
To council in the city gates anon
Gray-headed men and grave, with warriors mixt,
Assemble, and harangues are heard, but soon

In factious opposition, till at last
 Of middle age one rising, eminent 665
 In wise deport, spake much of right and wrong,
 Of justice, of religion, truth and peace,
 And judgment from above him old and young
 Exploded and had seiz'd with violent hands,
 Had not a cloud descending snatch'd him thence 670
 Unseen amid the throng so violence
 Proceeded, and oppression, and sword-law
 Through all the plain, and refuge none was found
 Adam was all in tears, and, to his guide
 Lamenting, turn'd full sad 'O what are these, 675
 Death's ministers, not Men, who thus deal Death
 Inhumanly to men, and multiply
 Ten thousand-fold the sin of him who slew
 His brother, for of whom such massacre
 Make they but of their brethren, men of men? 680
 But who was that just man, whom had not Heav'n
 Rescu'd, had in his righteousness been lost?"

To whom thus Michael 'These are the product
 Of those ill-mated marriages thou saw'st,
 Where good with bad were matcht, who of themselves 685
 Abhor to join, and by imprudence mixt,
 Produce prodigious births of body or mind
 Such were these giants, men of high renown,
 For in those days might only shall be admir'd,
 And valour and heroic virtue call'd, 690
 To overcome in battle, and subdue
 Nations, and bring home spoils with infinite
 Man-slaughter, shall be held the highest pitch
 'Of human glory, and for glory done
 'Of triumph, to be styl'd great conquerors, 695
 Patrons of mankind, gods, and sons of gods,
 Destroyers rightlier call'd, and plagues of men
 Thus fame shall be achiev'd, renown on Earth,
 And what most merits fame in silence hid
 But he, the seventh from thee, whom thou beheld'st 700
 The only righteous in a world perverse,

And therefore hated, therefore so beset
With foes for daring single to be just,
And utter odious truth, that God would come
To judge them with his samts him the Most High 705
Rapt in a balmy cloud with winged steeds
Did, as thou saw'st, receive, to walk with God
High in salvation and the climes of bliss,
Exempt from death, to show thee what reward
Awaits the good, the rest what punishment, 710
Which now direct thine eyes and soon behold'

He look'd, and saw the face of things quite chang'd
The brazen throat of war had ceast to roar
And all was turn'd to jollity and game,
To luxury and riot, feast and dance, 715
Marrying or prostituting, as befel,
Rape or adultery, where passing fair
Allur'd them, thence from cups to civil broils
At length a reverend sire among them came,
And of their doings great dislike declar'd, 720
And testifi'd against their ways, he oft
Frequented their assemblies, whereso met,
Triumphs or festivals, and to them preach'd
Conversion and repentance, as to souls
In prison under judgments imminent 725
But all in vain which when he saw, he ceas'd
Contending, and remov'd his tents far off
Then from the mountain hewing timber tall,
Began to build a vessel of huge bulk,
Measur'd by cubit, length, and breadth, and highth, 730
Smear'd round with pitch, and in the side a door
Contriv'd, and of provisions laid in large
For man and beast when lo a wonder strange!
Of every beast and bird, and insect small,
Came sevens, and pairs, and enter'd in, as taught 735
Their order, last the sire and his three sons,
With their four wives, and God made fast the door.*
Meanwhile the south wind rose, and with black wings
Wide hovering, all the clouds together drove

From under Heav'n, the hills to their supply 740
 Vapour, and exhalation dusk and moist
 Sent up amain, and now the thick'nd sky
 Like a dark ceiling stood, down rush'd the rain
 Impetuous, and continu'd till the earth
 No more was seen, the floating vessel swum 745
 Uplifted, and secure with beaked prow
 Rode tilting o'er the waves, all dwellings else
 Flood overwhelm'd, and them with all their pomp
 Deep under water roll'd, sea cover'd sea,
 Sea without shore, and in their palaces 750
 Where luxury late reign'd, sea monsters whelp'd
 And stabl'd, of Mankind, so numerous late,
 All left, in one small bottom swum embark't
 How didst thou grieve then, Adam, to behold
 The end of all thy offspring, end so sad, 755
 Depopulation, thee another flood,
 Of tears and sorrow a flood thee also drown'd,
 And sunk thee as thy sons, till gently rear'd
 By th' angel, on thy feet thou stoodst at last,
 Though comfortless, as when a father mourns 760
 His children, all in view destroy'd at once,
 And scarce to th' angel utter'dst thus thy plaint
 'O visions ill foreseen' better had I
 Liv'd ignorant of future, so had borne
 My part of evil only, each day's lot 765
 Enough to bear, those now, that were dispens't
 The burd'n of many ages, on me light
 At once, by my foreknowledge gaining birth
 Abortive, to torment me ere their being,
 With thought that they must be Let no man seek 770
 Henceforth to be foretold what shall befall
 Him or his children, evil, he may be sure,
 Which neither his foreknowing can prevent,
 And he the future evils shall no less
 In apprehension than in substance feel 775
 Grievous to bear but that care now is past,
 Man is not whom to warn those few escap't

Famine and anguish will at last consume,
 Wand'ring that wat'ry desert I had hope,
 When violence was ceas't, and war on Earth, 780
 All would have then gone well, peace would have crown'd
 With length of happy days the race of Man ,
 But I was far deceiv'd, for now I see
 Peace to corrupt no less than war to waste
 How comes it thus? unfold, celestial guide, 785
 And whether here the race of Man will end'

To whom thus Michael 'Those whom last thou saw'st
 In triumph and luxurious wealth, are they
 First seen in acts of prowess eminent
 And 'great exploits, but of true virtue void, 790
 Who having spilt much blood, and done much waste
 Subduing nations, and achiev'd thereby
 Fame in the world, high titles, and rich prey,
 Shall change their course to pleasure, ease, and sloth,
 Surfeit, and lust, till wantonness and pride 795
 Raise out of friendship hostile deeds in peace
 The conquer'd also, and enslav'd by war
 Shall with their freedom lost all virtue lose
 And fear of God, from whom then piety feign'd
 In sharp contest of battle found no aid 800
 Against invaders, therefore cool'd in zeal
 Thenceforth shall practise how to live secure,
 Worldly or dissolute, on what their lords
 Shall leave them to enjoy, for th' Earth shall bear
 More than enough, that temperance may be tri'd 805
 So all shall turn degenerate, all depriv'd,
 Justice and temperance, truth and faith forgot,
 One man except, the only son of light
 In a dark age, against example good,
 Against allurements, custom, and a world 810
 Offended, fearless of reproach and scorn,
 Or violence, he of their wicked ways
 Shall them admonish, and before them set
 The paths of righteousness, how much more safe
 And full of peace, denouncing wrath to come 815

On their impenitence, and shall return
 Of them derided, but of God observ'd
 The one just man alive, by his command
 Shall build a wondrous ark, as thou beheldst,
 To save himself and household from amidst 820
 A world devote to universal wrack
 No sooner he with them of man and beast
 Select for life shall in the ark be lodg'd,
 And shelter'd round, but all the cataracts
 Of heav'n set open on the earth shall pour 825
 Rain day and night, all fountains of the deep
 Broke up, shall heave the ocean to usurp
 Beyond all bounds, till inundation rise
 Above the highest hills then shall this mount
 Of Paradise by might of waves be mov'd 830
 Out of his place, push'd by the horned flood,
 With all his verdure spoil'd, and trees adrift
 Down the great river to the op'ning gulf,
 And there take root an island salt and bare,
 The haunt of seals and orcs, and seamews' clang 835
 To teach thee that God attributes to place
 No sanctity, if none be thither brought
 By men who there frequent, or therein dwell
 And now what further shall ensue, behold'
 He look'd, and saw the ark hull on the flood, 840
 Which now abated, for the clouds were fled,
 Driven by a keen north-wind, that blowing dry
 Wrinkl'd the face of Deluge, as decay'd,
 And the clear sun on his wide watry glass
 Gaz'd hot, and of the fresh wave largely drew, 845
 As after thirst, which made their flowing shrink
 From standing lake to tripping ebb, that stole
 With soft foot towards the deep, who now had stopt
 His sluices, as the heav'n his windows shut
 The ark no more now floats, but seems on ground 850
 Fast on the top of some high mountain fixt
 And now the tops of hills as rocks appear,
 With clamour thence the rapid currents drive

Towards the retreating sea their furious tide
Forthwith from out the ark a raven flies, 855
And after him, the surer messenger,
A dove sent forth once and again to spy
Green tree or ground whereon his foot may light,
The second time returning, in his bill
An olive leaf he brings, pacific sign 860
Anon dry ground appears, and from his ark
The ancient sire descends with all his train,
Then with uplifted hands, and eyes devout,
Grateful to Heav'n, over his head beholds
A dewy cloud, and in the cloud a bow 865
Conspicuous with three listed colours gay,
Betok'ning peace from God, and cov'nant new
Whereat the heart of Adam erst so sad
Greatly rejoic'd, and thus his joy broke forth
'O thou who future things canst represent 870
As present, Heav'nly instructor, I revive
At this last sight, assur'd that Man shall live
With all the creatures, and their seed preserve
Far less I now lament for one whole world
Of wicked sons destroy'd, than I rejoice 875
For one man found so perfect and so just,
That God voutsafes to raise another world
From him, and all his anger to forget
But say, what mean those colour'd streaks in heav'n,
Distended as the brow of God appeas'd? 880
Or serve they as a flow'ry verge to bind
The fluid skirts of that same watry cloud,
Lest it again dissolve and show'r the earth?"
To whom th' archangel 'Dextrously thou aum'st,
So willingly doth God remit his ire, 885
Though late repenting him of Man depriv'd,
Griev'd at his heart, when looking down he saw
The whole earth fill'd with violence, and all flesh
Corrupting each their way, yet those remov'd,
Such grace shall one just man find in his sight, 890
That he relents, not to blot out mankind,

And makes a covenant never to destroy
The earth again by flood, nor let the sea
Surpass his bounds, nor rain to drown the world
With man therein or beast, but when he brings 895
Over the earth a cloud, will therein set
His triple colour'd bow, whereon to look
And call to mind his cov'nant day and night,
Seed-time and harvest, heat and hoary frost
Shall hold their course, till fire purge all things new, 900
Both heav'n and earth, wherein the just shall dwell'

BOOK XII

THE ARGUMENT

The angel Michael continues from the flood to relate what shall succeed, then, in the mention of Abraham, comes by degrees to explain, who that Seed of the Woman shall be, which was promised Adam and Eve in the Fall His incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension, the state of the church till his second coming Adam, greatly satisfied and re comforted by these relations and promises, descends the hill with Michael wakens Eve, who all this while had slept, but with gentle dreams composed to quietness of mind and submission Michael in either hand leads them out of Paradise, the fiery sword waving behind them, and the cherubim taking their stations to guard the place

As one who in his journey bates at noon, re-
late
Though bent on speed, so here the archangel paus'd,
Betwixt the world destroy'd and world restor'd,
If Adam aught perhaps might interpose,
Then with transition sweet new speech resumes 5
 'Thus thou hast seen one world begin and end,
And Man as from a second stock proceed
Much thou hast yet to see, but I perceive
Thy mortal sight to fail, objects divine
Must needs impair and weary human sense 10
Henceforth what is to come I will relate,
Thou therefore give due audience, and attend
This second source of men, while yet but few,
And while the dread of judgment past remains
Fresh in their minds, fearing the Deity, 15

With some regard to what is just and right
Shall lead their lives, and multiply apace,
Labouring the soil, and reaping plenteous crop,
Corn, wine, and oil, and from the herd or flock,
Oft sacrificing bullock, lamb, or kid, 20
With large wine-offerings pour'd, and sacred feast,
Shall spend their days in joy unblam'd, and dwell
Long time in peace by families and tribes
Under paternal rule, till one shall rise
Of proud ambitious heart, who not content 25
With fair equality, fraternal state,
Will arrogate dominion undeserv'd
Over his brethren, and quite dispossess
Concord and law of Nature from the earth,
Hunting (and men, not beasts, shall be his game) 30
With war and hostile snare such as refuse
Subjection to his empire tyrannous
A mighty hunter thence he shall be styl'd
Before the Lord, as in despite of Heav'n,
Or from Heav'n claiming second sovranity, 35
And from rebellion shall derive his name,
Though of rebellion others he accuse
He with a crew, whom like ambition joins
With him or under him to tyrannize,
Marching from Eden towards the west, shall find 40
The plain, wherein a black bituminous gurge
Boils out from under ground, the mouth of Hell,
Of brick, and of that stuff they cast to build
A city and tower, whose top may reach to Heav'n,
And get themselves a name, lest far disperst 45
In foreign lands their memory be lost,
Regardless whether good or evil fame
But God who oft descends to visit men
Unseen, and through their habitations walks
To mark their doings, them beholding soon, 50
Comes down to see their city, ere the tower
Obstruct Heav'n towrs, and in derision sets
Upon their tongues a various spirit to rase

Quite out their native language, and instead
 To sow a jangling noise of words unknown 55
 Forthwith a hideous gabble rises loud
 Among the builders, each to other calls
 Not understood, till hoarse, and all in rage,
 As mockt they storm great laughter was in Heav'n
 And looking down, to see the hubbub strange, 60
 And hear the din, thus was the building left
 Ridiculous, and the work Confusion nam'd

Whereto thus Adam, fatherly displeas'd
 'O execrable son, so to aspire
 Above his brethren, to himself assuming 65
 Authority usurpt, from God not giv'n'
 He gave us only over beast, fish, fowl
 Dominion absolute, that right we hold
 By his donation, but Man over men
 He made not lord, such title to himself 70
 Reserving, human left from human free
 But this usurper his encroachment proud
 Stays not on Man, to God his tower intends
 Siege and defiance Wretched man' what food
 Will he convey up thither to sustain 75
 Himself and his rash army, where thin air
 Above the clouds will pine his entrails gross,
 And famish him of breath, if not of bread'

To whom thus Michael 'Justly thou abhorr'st
 That son, who on the quiet state of men 80
 Such trouble brought, affecting to subdue
 Rational liberty, yet know withal
 Since thy original lapse, true liberty
 Is lost, which always with right reason dwells
 Twinn'd, and from her hath no dividual being 85
 Reason in Man obscur'd, or not obey'd,
 Immediately inordinate desires
 And upstart passions catch the government
 From reason, and to servitude reduce
 Man, till then free Therefore, since he permits 90
 Within himself unworthy powers to reign

Over free reason, God in judgment just
 Subjects him from without to violent lords,
 Who oft as undeservedly inthrall
 His outward freedom Tyranny must be, 95
 Though to the tyrant thereby no excuse
 Yet sometimes nations will decline so low
 From virtue, which is reason, that no wrong,
 But justice, and some fatal curse annex,
 Deprives them of their outward liberty, 100
 Their inward lost witness th' irreverent son
 Of him who built the ark, who for the shame
 Done to his father, heard this heavy curse,
 "Servant of servants," on his vicious race
 Thus will this latter, as the former world, 105
 Still tend from bad to worse, till God at last
 Wearied with their iniquities, withdraw
 His presence from among them, and avert
 His holy eyes, resolving from thenceforth
 To leave them to their own polluted ways, 110
 And one peculiar nation to select
 From all the rest, of whom to be invoc'd,
 A nation from one faithful man to spring
 Him on this side Euphrates yet residing,
 Bred up in idol-worship O that men 115
 (Canst thou believe?) should be so stupid grown,
 While yet the patriarch liv'd who scap'd the Flood,
 As to forsake the living God, and fall
 To worship their own work in wood and stone
 For gods! Yet him God the Most High voutsafes 120
 To call by vision from his father's house,
 His kindred and false gods, into a land
 Which he will shew him, and from him will raise
 A mighty nation, and upon him shower
 His benediction so, that in his seed 125
 All nations shall be blest, he straight obeys,
 Not knowing to what land, yet firm believes
 I see him, but thou canst not, with what faith
 He leaves his gods, his friends, and native soil,

Ur of Chaldea, passing now the ford 130
To Haran, after him a cumbrous train
Of herds and flocks, and numerous servitude,
Not wandering poor, but trusting all his wealth
With God, who call'd him in a land unknown
Canaan he now attains, I see his tents 135
Pitcht about Sechem, and the neighb'ring plain
Of Moreh, there by promise he receives
Gift to his progeny of all that land,
From Hamath northward to the desert south,
(Things by their names I call, though yet unnam'd) 140
From Hermon east to the great western sea,
Mount Hermon, yonder sea, each place behold
In prospect, as I point them, on the shore
Mount Carmel, here the double-founted stream
Jordan, true limit eastward, but his sons 145
Shall dwell to Senir, that long ridge of hills
This ponder, that all nations of the Earth
Shall in his seed be blessed, by that Seed
Is meant thy great Deliverer, who shall bruise
The Serpent's head, whereof to thee anon 150
Plainlier shall be reveal'd This patriarch blest,
Whom faithful Abraham due time shall call,
A son, and of his son a grandchild leaves,
Like him in faith, in wisdom, and renown
The grandchild, with twelve sons increast, departs 155
From Canaan, to a land hereafter call'd
Egypt, divided by the river Nile,
See where it flows, disgorging at seven mouths
Into the sea to sojourn in that land
He comes invited by a younger son 160
In time of dearth, a son whose worthy deeds
Raise him to be the second in that realm
Of Pharaoh, there he dies, and leaves his race
Growing into a nation, and now grown
Suspected to a sequent king, who seeks 165
To stop their overgrowth, as inmate guests
Too numerous, whence of guests he makes them slaves,

Inhospitably, and kills their infant males
Till by two brethren (those two brethren call
Moses and Aaron) sent from God to claim 170
His people from enthrallment, they return
With glory and spoil back to their promis'd land
But first the lawless tyrant, who denies
To know their God, or message to regard,
Must be compell'd, by signs and judgments dire, 175
To blood unshed the rivers must be turn'd,
Frogs, lice, and flies must all his palace fill,
With loath'd intrusion, and fill all the land,
His cattle must of rot and murrain die,
Botches and blains must all his flesh emboss, 180
And all his people, thunder mixt with hail,
Hail mixt with fire must rend th' Egyptian sky,
And wheel on th' earth, devouring where it rolls,
What it devours not, herb, or fruit, or grain,
A darksome cloud of locusts swarming down 185
Must eat, and on the ground leave nothing green
Darkness must overshadow all his bounds,
Palpable darkness, and blot out three days,
Last with one midnight stroke all the first born
Of Egypt must lie dead Thus with ten wounds 190
The river-dragon tam'd at length submits
To let his sojourners depart, and oft
Humbles his stubborn heart, but still as ice
More hard'nd after thaw, till in his rage
Pursuing whom he late dismiss'd, the sea 195
Swallows him with his host, but them lets pass
As on dry land between two crystal walls,
Aw'd by the rod of Moses so to stand
Divided, till his rescu'd gain their shore
Such wondrous power God to his saint will lend, 200
Though present in his angel, who shall go
Before them in a cloud, and pillar of fire,
(By day a cloud, by night a pillar of fire,)
To guide them in their journey, and remove
Behind them, while th' obdurate king pursues 205

All night he will pursue, but his approach
Darkness defends between till morning watch,
Then through the fiery pillar and the cloud
God looking forth will trouble all his host
And craze their chariot-wheels, when by command 210
Moses once more his potent rod extends
Over the sea, the sea his rod obeys,
On their embattl'd ranks the waves return,
And overwhelm their war the race elect,
Safe towards Canaan from the shore advance 215
Through the wild desert, not the readiest way,
Lest entering on the Canaanite alarm'd,
War terrify them inexpert, and fear
Return them back to Egypt, choosing rather
Inglorious life with servitude, for life 220
To noble and ignoble is more sweet
Untrain'd in arms, where rashness leads not on
This also shall they gain by their delay
In the wide wilderness, there they shall found
Their government, and their great senate choose 225
Through the twelve tribes, to rule by laws ordain'd
God from the mount of Sinai, whose gray top
Shall tremble, he descending, will himself
In thunder, lightning, and loud trumpets' sound
Ordain them laws, part such as appertain 230
To civil justice, part religious rites
Of sacrifice, informing them, by types
And shadows, of that destin'd Seed to bruise
The Serpent, by what means he shall achieve
Mankind's deliverance But the voice of God 235
To mortal ear is dreadful, they beseech
That Moses might report to them his will,
And terror cease he grants what they besought,
Instructed that to God is no access
Without mediator, whose high office now 240
Moses in figure bears, to introduce
One greater, of whose day he shall foretell,
And all the prophets in their age the times

Of great Messiah shall sing Thus laws and rites
 Establisht, such delight hath God in men 245
 Obedient to his will, that he voutsafes
 Among them to set up his tabernacle,
 The Holy One with mortal men to dwell
 By his prescript a sanctuary is fram'd
 Of cedar, overlaid with gold, therein 250
 An ark, and in the ark his testimony,
 The records of his cov'nant, over these
 A mercy-seat of gold between the wings
 Of two bright cherubim, before him burn
 Seven lamps as in a zodiac representing 255
 The heavenly fires, over the tent a cloud
 Shall rest by day, a fiery gleam by night,
 Save when they journey, and at length they come,
 Conducted by his angel to the land
 Promis'd to Abraham and his seed the rest 260
 Were long to tell, how many battles fought,
 How many kings destroy'd, and kingdoms won,
 Or how the sun shall in mid Heav'n stand still
 A day entire, and night's due course adjourn,
 Man's voice commanding, "Sun, in Gibeon stand, 265
 And thou Moon, in the vale of Ajalon,"
 Till Israel overcome so call the third
 From Abraham, son of Isaac, and from him
 His whole descent, who thus shall Canaan win'
 Here Adam interpos'd 'O sent from Heav'n, 270
 Enlight'ner of my darkness, gracious things
 Thou hast reveal'd, those chiefly which concern
 Just Abraham and his seed now first I find
 Mine eyes true op'ning, and my heart much eas'd
 Erewhile perplext with thoughts what would become 275
 Of me and all Mankind but now I see
 His day, in whom all nations shall be blest,
 Favour unmerited by me, who sought
 Forbidd'n knowledge by forbidd'n means
 This yet I apprehend not, why to those 280
 Among whom God will deign to dwell on Earth

So many and so various laws are giv'
 So many laws argue so many sins -
 Among them, how can God with such reside?"
 To whom thus Michael 'Doubt not but that sin 285
 Will reign among them, as of thee begot,
 And therefore was law given them to evince
 Their natural pravity, by stirring up
 Sin against law to fight, that when they see
 Law can discover sin, but not remove, 290
 Save by those shadowy expiations weak,
 The blood of bulls and goats, they may conclude
 Some blood more precious must be paid for man,
 Just for unjust, that in such righteousness
 To them by faith imputed, they may find 295
 Justification towards God, and peace
 Of conscience, which the law by ceremonies
 Cannot appease, nor man the moral part
 Perform, and not performing cannot live
 So law appears imperfect, and but giv'n 300
 With purpose to resign them in full time
 Up to a better cov'nant, disciplin'd
 From shadowy types to truth, from flesh to spirit,
 From imposition of strict laws, to free
 Acceptance of large grace, from servile fear 305
 To filial, works of law to works of faith
 And therefore shall not Moses, though of God
 Highly belov'd, being but the minister
 Of law, his people into Canaan lead,
 But Joshua whom the Gentiles Jesus call, 310
 His name and office bearing who shall quell
 The adversary Serpent, and bring back
 Through the world's wilderness long wander'd man
 Safe to eternal Paradise of rest
 Meanwhile they in their earthly Canaan plac't, 315
 Long time shall dwell and prosper, but when sins
 National interrupt their public peace,
 Provoking God to raise ~~them~~ enemies,
 From whom as oft he saves ~~them~~ penitent

By judges first, then under kings, of whom 320
The second, both for piety renown'd
And puissant deeds, a promise shall receive
Irrevocable, that his regal throne
For ever shall endure, the like shall sing
All prophecy, that of the royal stock 325
Of David (so I name this king) shall rise
A son, the Woman's Seed to thee foretold,
Foretold to Abraham, as in whom shall trust
All nations, and to kings foretold, of kings
The last, for of his reign shall be no end 330
But first a long succession must ensue,
And his next son, for wealth and wisdom fam'd,
The clouded ark of God till then in tents
Wandering, shall in a glorious temple enshrine
Such follow him as shall be register'd, 335
Part good, part bad, of bad the longer scroll,
Whose foul idolatries, and other faults,
Heapt to the popular sum, will so incense
God, as to leave them, and expose their land,
Their city, his temple, and his holy ark 340
With all his sacred things, a scorn and prey
To that proud city, whose high walls thou saw'st
Left in confusion, Babylon thence call'd
There in captivity he lets them dwell
The space of seventy years, then brings them back, 345
Remembring mercy, and his cov'nant sworn
To David, stablisht as the days of Heav'n
Return'd from Babylon by leave of kings
Their lords, whom God dispos'd, the house of God
They first re-edify, and for a while 350
In mean estate live moderate, till grown
In wealth and multitude, factious they grow,
But first among the priests dissension springs,
Men who attend the altar, and should most
Endeavour peace their strife pollution brings 355
Upon the temple itself, at last they seize
The sceptre, and regard not David's sons,

Then lose it to a stranger, that the true
Anointed King Messiah might be born
Barr'd of his right yet at his birth a star, 360
Unseen before in Heav'n, proclaims him come,
And guides the eastern sages, who enquire
His place, to offer incense, myrrh, and gold,
His place of birth a solemn angel tells
To simple shepherds, keeping watch by night, 365
They gladly thither haste, and by a quire
Of squadron'd angels hear his carol sung
A virgin is his mother, but his sire
The Power of the Most High, he shall ascend
The throne hereditary, and bound his reign 370
With Earth's wide bounds, his glory with the Heav'ns'
He ceas'd, discerning Adam with such joy
Surcharg'd, as had like grief been dew'd in tears,
Without the vent of words, which these he breath'd
 'O prophet of glad tidings, finisher 375
Of utmost hope ' now clear I understand
What oft my steadiest thoughts have searcht in vain,
Why our great Expectation should be call'd
The Seed of Woman Virgin Mother, hail,
High in the love of Heav'n ' yet from my loins 380
Thou shalt proceed, and from thy womb the Son
Of God most High so God with man unites
Needs must the Serpent now his capital bruise
Expect with mortal pain say where and when
Their fight, what stroke shall bruise the Victor's heel?'
To whom thus Michael 'Dream not of their fight, 386
As of a duel, or the local wounds
Of head or heel not therefore joins the Son
Manhood to Godhead, with more strength to foil
Thy enemy, nor so is overcome 390
Satan, whose fall from Heav'n, a deadlier bruise,
Disabl'd not to give thee thy death's wound
Which he, who comes thy Saviour, shall recure,
Not by destroying Satan, but his works
In thee and in thy seed nor can this be, 395

But by fulfilling that which thou didst want,
Obedience to the law of God, impos'd
On penalty of death, and suffering death,
The penalty to thy transgression due,
And due to theirs, which out of thine will grow 400
So only can high justice rest appaid
The law of God exact he shall fulfil
Both by obedience and by love, though love
Alone fulfil the law, thy punishment
He shall endure by coming in the flesh 405
To a reproachful life and cursed death,
Proclaiming life to all who shall believe
In his redemption, and that his obedience
Imputed becomes theirs by faith, his merits
To save them, not their own though legal works 410
For this he shall live hated, be blasphem'd,
Seiz'd on by force, judg'd, and to death condemn'd,
A shameful and accurst, nail'd to the cross
By his own nation, slain for bringing life
But to the cross he nails thy enemies, 415
The law that is against thee, and the sins
Of all mankind, with him there crucifi'd,
Never to hurt them more who rightly trust
In this his satisfaction, so he dies,
But soon revives, Death over him no power 420
Shall long usurp, ere the third dawning light
Return, the stars of morn shall see him rise
Out of his grave, fresh as the dawning light,
The ransom paid, which Man from death redeems,
His death for Man, as many as offer'd life 425
Neglect not, and the benefit embrace
By faith not void of works this God-like act
Annuls thy doom, the death thou should'st have di'd,
In sin for ever lost from life, this act
Shall bruise the head of Satan, crush his strength, 430
Defeating Sin and Death, his two main arms,
And fix far deeper in his head their stings
Than temporal death shall bruise the Victor's heel,

Or theirs whom he redeems, a death-like sleep,
A gentle wafting to immortal life 435
Nor after resurrection shall he stay
Longer on Earth than certain times to appear
To his disciples, men who in his life
Still follow'd him, to them shall leave in charge
To teach all nations what of him they learn'd, 440
And his salvation, them who shall believe
Baptizing in the profuent stream, the sign
Of washing them from guilt of sin to life
Pure, and in mind prepar'd, if so befall,
For death, like that which the Redeemer died 445
All nations they shall teach, for from that day
Not only to the sons of Abraham's loins
Salvation shall be preacht, but to the sons
Of Abraham's faith wherever through the world,
So in his seed all nations shall be blest 450
Then to the Heav'n of Heav'ns he shall ascend
With victory, triumphing through the air
Over his foes and thine, there shall surpise
The Serpent, prince of air, and drag in chains -
Through all his realm, and there confounded leave, 455
Then enter into glory, and resume
His seat at God's right hand, exalted high
Above all names in Heav'n, and thence shall come,
When this world's dissolution shall be ripe,
With glory and power to judge both quick and dead, 460
To judge th' unfaithful dead, but to reward
His faithful, and receive them into bliss,
Whether in Heav'n or Earth, for then the Earth
Shall all be Paradise, far happier place
Than this of Eden, and far happier days' 465
So spake th' archangel Michael, then paus'd,
As at the World's great period, and our sire
Replete with joy and wonder thus repli'd
'O goodness infinite, goodness immense'
That all this good of evil shall produce, 470
And evil turn to good, more wonderful

Than that which by creation first brought forth
Light out of darkness ' full of doubt I stand,
Whether I should repent me now of sin
By me done and occasion'd, or rejoice 475
Much more, that much more good thereof shall spring,
To God more glory, more good will to men
From God, and over wrath grace shall abound
But say, if our Deliverer up to Heav'n
Must re-ascend, what will betide the few, 480
His faithful, left among the unfaithful herd,
The enemies of truth ? who then shall guide
His people, who defend ? will they not deal
Worse with his followers than with him they dealt ?'
' Be sure they will,' said th' angel, ' but from Heav'n
He to his own a Comforter will send, 486
The promise of the Father, who sha'll dwell
His Spirit within them, and the law of faith
Working through love upon their hearts shall write,
To guide them in all truth, and also arm 490
With spiritual armour, able to resist
Satan's assaults, and quench his fiery darts,
What man can do against them, not afraid,
Though to the death, against such cruelties
With inward consolations recompens't 495
And oft supported so as shall amaze
Their proudest persecutors for the Spirit
Pour'd first on his apostles, whom he sends
To evangelize the nations, then on all
Baptiz'd, shall them with wondrous gifts endue 500
To speak all tongues, and do all miracles,
As did their Lord before them Thus they win
Great numbers of each nation to receive
With joy the tidings brought from Heav'n at length
Their ministry perform'd, and race well run, 505
Their doctrine and their story written left,
They die, but in their room, as they forewarn,
Wolves shall succeed for teachers, grievous wolves,
Who all the sacred mysteries of Heav'n

To their own vile advantages shall turn 510
Of lucre and ambition, and the truth
With superstitions and traditions taint,
Left only in those written records pure,
Though not but by the Spirit understood
Then shall they seek to avail themselves of names, 515
Places and titles, and with these to join
Secular power, though feigning still to act
By spiritual, to themselves appropriating
The Spirit of God, promised alike and giv'n
To all believers and from that pretence, 520
Spiritual laws by carnal power shall force
On every conscience, laws which none shall find
Left them enroll'd, or what the Spirit within
Shall on the heart engrave What will they then
But force the Spirit of grace itself, and bind 525
His consort Liberty? what, but unbuild
His living temples, built by faith to stand,
Their own faith not another's for on Earth
Who against faith and conscience can be heard
Infallible? yet many will presume 530
Whence heavy persecution shall arise
On all who in the worship persevere
Of Spirit and Truth, the rest, far greater part,
Will deem in outward rites and specious forms
Religion satisfied, Truth shall retire 535
Bestuck with slanderous darts, and works of faith
Rarely be found So shall the world go on,
To good malignant, to bad men benign
Under her own weight groaning till the day
Appear of respiration to the just, 540
And vengeance to the wicked, at return
Of him so lately promis'd to thy aid,
The Woman's Seed, obscurely then foretold,
Now amplier known thy Saviour and thy Lord, C
Last in the clouds from Heav'n to be reveal'd 545
In glory of the Father, to dissolve
Satan with his perverted world, then raise

From the conflagrant mass, purg'd and refin'd,
New heav'ns, new Earth, ages of endless date,
Founded in righteousness and peace and love 550
To bring forth fruits, joy and eternal bliss'

He ended, and thus Adam last repli'd
'How soon hath thy prediction, Seer blest,
Measur'd this transient world, the race of time,
Till time stand fixt? beyond is all abyss, 555
Eternity, whose end no eye can reach
Greatly instructed I shall hence depart,
Greatly in peace of thought, and have my fill
Of knowledge, what this vessel can contain,
Beyond which was my folly to aspire 560
Henceforth I learn, that to obey is best,
And love with fear the only God, to walk
As in his presence, ever to observe
His providence, and on him sole depend,
Merciful over all his works, with good 565
Still overcoming evil, and by small
Accomplishing great things, by things deem'd weak
Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise
By simply meek, that suffering for truth's sake
Is fortitude to highest victory, 570
And to the faithful Death the gate of Life
Taught this by his example whom I now
Acknowledge my Redeemer ever blest'

To whom thus also th' angel last repli'd
'This having learnt, thou hast attain'd the sum 575
Of wisdom, hope no higher, though all the stars
Thou knew'st by name, and all th' ethereal powers,
All secrets of the deep, all Nature's works,
Or works of God in heav'n, air, earth, or sea,
And all the riches of this world enjoy'dst, 580
And all the rule, one empire, only add
Deeds to thy knowledge answerable, add faith,
Add virtue, patience, temperance, add love,
By name to come call'd charity, the soul
Of all the rest then wilt thou not be loath 585

To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
A Paradise within thee, happier far
Let us descend now therefore from this top
Of speculation, for the hour precise
Exacts our parting hence, and see, the guards, 590
By me encampt on yonder hill, expect
Their motion, at whose front a flaming sword,
In signal of remove, waves fiercely round,
We may no longer stay go, waken Eve,
Her also I with gentle dreams have calm'd, 595
Portending good, and all her spirits compos'd
To meek submission thou at season fit
Let her with thee partake what thou hast heard,
Chiefly what may concern her faith to know,
The great deliverance by her Seed to come 600
(For by the Woman's Seed) on all mankind,
That ye may live, which will be many days,
Both in one faith unanimous, though sad
With cause for evils past, yet much more cheer'd
With meditation on the happy end ' 605

He ended, and they both descend the hill
Descended, Adam to the bower where Eve
Lay sleeping ran before, but found her wak't
And thus with words not sad she him receiv'd

'Whence thou return'st, and whither went'st I know, 610
For God is also in sleep, and dreams advise,
Which he hath sent propitious, some great good
Presaging, since with sorrow and heart's distress
Wearied I fell asleep but now lead on,
In me is no delay, with thee to go, 615
Is to stay here, without thee here to stay,
Is to go hence unwilling, thou to me
Art all things under Heav'n, all places thou,
Who for my wilful crime art banisht hence
This further consolation yet secure 620
I carry hence, though all by me is lost,
Such favour I unworthy am voutsaft,
By me, the promis'd Seed shall all restore '

So spake our mother Eve; and Adam heard
 Well pleas'd, but answer'd not, for now too nigh 625
 Th' archangel stood, and from the other hill
 To their fixt station, all in bright array
 The cherubim descended, on the ground
 Gliding meteorous, as ev'ning mist
 Ris'n from a river o'er the maish glides, 630
 And gathers ground fast at the labourer's heel
 Homeward returning High in front advanc't,
 The brandisht sword of God before them blaz'd
 Fierce as a comet, which with torrid heat,
 And vapour as the Libyan air adust, 635
 Began to parch that temperate clime whereat
 In either hand the hast'ning angel caught
 Our ling'ring parents, and to th' eastern gate
 Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast
 To the subjected plain, then disappear'd 640
 They looking back, all th' eastern side beheld
 Of Paradise, so late their happy seat,
 Wav'd over by that flaming brand, the gate
 With dreadful faces throng'd and fiery arms
 Some natural tears they dropp'd, but wip'd them soon, 645
 The world was all before them, where to choose
 Their place of rest, and Providence their guide
 They hand in hand with wand'ring steps and slow,
 Through Eden took their solitary way

PARADISE REGAINED

BOOK I

I WHO erewhile the happy garden sung,
By one man's disobedience lost, now sing
Recover'd Paradise to all mankind,
By one man's firm obedience fully tri'd
Through all temptation, and the Tempter foil'd 5
In all his wiles, defeated and repuls't,
And Eden rais'd in the waste wilderness
Thou Spirit who ledst this glorious Eremite
Into the desert, his victorious field
Against the spiritual Foe, and brought'st him thence 10
By proof the undoubted Son of God, inspire,
As thou art wont, my prompted song else mute,
And bear through highth or depth of nature's bounds
With prosperous wing full summ'd to tell of deeds
Above heroic, though in secret done, 15
And unrecorded left through many an age,
Worthy t' have not remain'd so long unsung
Now had the great Proclaimer with a voice
More awful than the sound of trumpet, cri'd
Repentance, and Heaven's kingdom nigh at hand 20
To all baptiz'd to his great baptism flock'd
With awe the regions round, and with them came
From Nazareth the son of Joseph deem'd
To the flood Jordan, came as then obscure,
Unmarkt, unknown, but him the Baptist soon 25

Descri'd, divinely warn'd, and witness bore
As to his worthier, and would have resign'd
To him his heavenly office, nor was long
His witness unconfirm'd on him baptiz'd
Heaven open'd, and in likeness of a dove 30
The Spirit descended, while the Father's voice
From Heav'n pronounc'd him his beloved Son
That heard the Adversary, who roving still
About the world, at that assembly fam'd
Would not be last, and with the voice divine 35
Nigh thunder-struck, th' exalted man, to whom
Such high attest was giv'n, a while survey'd
With wonder, then with envy fraught and rage
Flies to his place, nor rests, but in mid air
To council summons all his mighty peers, 40
Within thick clouds and dark tenfold involv'd,
A gloomy consistory, and them amidst
With looks agast and sad, he thus bespake
 'O ancient Powers of Air and this wide world,
(For much more willingly I mention Air, 45
This our old conquest, than remember Hell,
Our hated habitation,) well ye know
How many ages, as the years of men,
This universe we have possess'd, and rul'd
In manner at our will th' affairs of Earth, 50
Since Adam and his facile consort Eve
Lost Paradise deceiv'd by me, though since
With dread attending when that fatal wound
Shall be inflicted by the Seed of Eve
Upon my head Long the decrees of Heav'n 55
Delay, for longest time to him is short,
And now too soon for us the circling hours
This dreaded time have compast, wherein we
Must bide the stroke of that long threatn'd wound,
At least if so we can, and by the head 60
Broken, be not intended all our power
To be infring'd, our freedom and our being
In this fair empire won of Earth and Air,

For this ill news I bring, the Woman's Seed
Destin'd to this, is late of Woman born 65
His birth to our just fear gave no small cause,
But his growth now to youth's full flowr, displaying
All virtue, grace and wisdom to achieve
Things highest, greatest, multiplies my fear
Before him a great prophet, to proclaim 70
His coming, is sent harbinger, who all
Invites, and in the consecrated stream
Pretends to wash off sin, and fit them so
Purified to receive him pure, or rather
To do him honour as their king, all come, 75
And he himself among them was baptiz'd,
Not thence to be more pure, but to receive
The testimony of Heaven, that who he is
Thenceforth the nations may not doubt I saw
The prophet do him reverence, on him rising 80
Out of the water, Heav'n above the clouds
Unfold her crystal doors, thence on his head
A perfect dove descend, whate'er it meant,
And out of Heav'n the sovran Voice I heard,
"This is my Son belov'd, in him am pleas'd" 85
His mother then is mortal, but his Sire,
He who obtains the monarchy of Heav'n,
And what will he not do to advance his Son?
His first-begot we know, and sore have felt,
When his fierce thunder drove us to the deep, 90
Who this is we must learn, for man he seems
In all his lineaments, though in his face
The glimpses of his Father's glory shine
Ye see our danger on the utmost edge
Of hazard, which admits no long debate, 95
But must with something sudden be oppos'd,
Not force, but well-couch't fraud, well woven snares,
Ere in the head of nations he appear
Their king, their leader, and supreme on Earth
I, when no other durst, sole undertook 100
The dismal expedition to find out

And ruin Adam, and the exploit perform'd
Successfully a calmer voyage now
Will waft me, and the way found prosperous once
Induces best to hope of like success' 105

He ended, and his words impression left
Of much amazement to th' infernal crew,
Distracted and surpris'd with deep dismay
At these sad tidings, but no time was then
For long indulgence to their fears or grief 110

Unanimous they all commit the care
And management of this main enterprise
To him their great Dictator, whose attempt
At first against mankind so well had thriv'd
In Adam's overthrow, and led their march 115

From Hell's deep-vaulted den to dwell in light,
Regents, and potentates, and kings, yea gods
Of many a pleasant realm and province wide
So to the coast of Jordan he directs
His easy steps, girded with snaky wiles, 120

Where he might likeliest find this new declar'd,
This man of men, attested Son of God,
Temptation and all guile on him to try,
So to subvert whom he suspected rais'd
To end his reign on earth so long enjoy'd, 125

But contrary unweeting he fulfill'd
The purpos'd counsel pre-ordain'd and fixt
Of the Most High, who in full frequency bright
Of angels, thus to Gabriel smiling spake

'Gabriel, this day by proof thou shalt behold, 130
Thou and all angels conversant on earth
With man or men's affairs, how I begin
To verify that solemn message late,
On which I sent thee to the Virgin pure

In Galilee, that she should bear a son 135
Great in renown, and call'd the Son of God,
Then told'st her doubting how these things could be
To her a virgin, that on her should come
The Holy Ghost, and the power of the Highest

O'ershadow her this man, born and now upgrown, 140
To shew him worthy of his birth divine
And high prediction, henceforth I expose
To Satan, let him tempt and now assay
His utmost subtilty, because he boasts
And vaunts of his great cunning to the throng 145
Of his apostasy he might have learnt
Less overweening, since he fail'd in Job,
Whose constant perseverance overcame
Whate'er his cruel malice could invent
He now shall know I can produce a man 150
Of female seed, far abler to resist
All his solicitations, and at length
All his vast force, and drive him back to Hell,
Winning by conquest what the first man lost
By fallacy surpris'd But first I mean 155
To exercise him in the wilderness,
There, he shall first lay down the rudiments
Of his great warfare, ere I send him forth
To conquer Sin and Death, the two grand foes,
By humiliation and strong sufferance 160
His weakness shall o'ercome Satanic strength,
And all the world, and mass of sinful flesh,
That all the angels and ethereal powers,
They now, and men hereafter may discern,
From what consummate virtue I have chose 165
This perfect man, by merit call'd my Son,
'To earn salvation for the sons of men'
So spake the eternal Father, and all Heaven
Admiring stood a space, then into hymns
Burst forth, and in celestial measures mov'd, 170
Circling the throne and singing, while the hand
Sung with the voice, and this the argument
'Victory and triumph to the Son of God
Now entring his great duel, not of arms,
But to vanquish by wisdom hellish wiles 175
The Father knows the Son; therefore secure
Ventures his filial virtue, though untri'd,

Against whate'er may tempt, whate'er seduce,
 Allure, or terrify, or undermine
 Be frustrate all ye stratagems of Hell, 180
 And devilish machinations come to nought !'

So they in Heav'n their odes and vigils tun'd
 Meanwhile the Son of God, who yet some days
 Lodg'd in Bethabara where John baptiz'd,
 Musing, and much revolving in his breast 185
 How best the mighty work he might begin
 Of Saviour to mankind, and which way first
 Publish his Godlike office now mature,
 One day forth walk'd alone, the Spirit leading
 And his deep thoughts, the better to converse 190
 With solitude, till far from track of men,
 Thought following thought, and step by step led on,
 He entred now the bordering desert wild,
 And, with dark shades and rocks environ'd round,
 His holy meditations thus pursu'd 195

'O what a multitude of thoughts at once
 Awak'nd in me swarm, while I consider
 What from within I feel myself, and hear
 What from without comes often to my ears,
 Ill sorting with my present state compar'd 200
 When I was yet a child, no childish play
 To me was pleasing, all my mind was set
 Serious to learn and know, and thence to do
 What might be public good, myself I thought
 Born to that end, born to promote all truth, 205
 All righteous things therefore above my years
 The law of God I read, and found it sweet,
 Made it my whole delight, and in it grew
 To such perfection, that ere yet my age
 Had measur'd twice six years, at our great feast 210
 I went into the Temple, there to hear
 The teachers of our law, and to propose
 What might improve my knowledge or their own,
 And was admir'd by all, yet this not all
 To which my spirit aspir'd, victorious deeds 215

Flam'd in my heart, heroic acts, one while
To rescue Israel from the Roman yoke,
Then to subdue and quell, o'er all the earth,
Brute violence and proud tyrannic pow'r,
Till truth were freed, and equity restor'd 220
Yet held it more humane, more heavenly first
By winning words to conquer willing hearts,
And make persuasion do the work of fear,
At least to try, and teach the erring soul
Not wilfully misdoing, but unaware 225
Misd, the stubborn only to subdue
These growing thoughts my mother soon perceiving
By words at times cast forth, only rejoic'd,
And said to me apart, "High are thy thoughts,
O Son, but nourish them and let them soar 230
To what highth sacred virtue and true worth
Can raise them, though above example high,
By matchless deeds express thy matchless Sire
For know, thou art no son of mortal man,
Though men esteem thee low of parentage, 235
Thy father is the Eternal King, who rules
All Heaven and Earth, angels and sons of men,
A messenger from God foretold thy birth
Conceiv'd in me a virgin, he foretold
Thou shouldst be great and sit on David's throne, 240
And of thy kingdom there shall be no end
At thy nativity a glorious quire
Of angels in the fields of Bethlehem sung
To shepherds watching at their folds by night
And told them the Messiah now was born, 245
Where they might see him, and to thee they came,
Directed to the manger where thou lay'st,
For in the inn was left no better room
A star, not seen before, in Heaven appearing
Guided the wise men thither from the East, 250
To honour thee with incense, myrrh, and gold,
By whose bright course led on they found the place,
Affirming it thy star new grav'n in Heaven,

By which they knew thee king of Israel born
Just Simeon and prophetic Anna, warn'd 255
By vision, found thee in the Temple, and spake
Before the altar and the vested priest,
Like things of thee to all that present stood"
This having heard, straight I again revol'd
The law and prophets, searching what was writ 260
Concerning the Messiah, to our scribes
Known partly, and soon found of whom they spake
I am, this chiefly, that my way must lie
Through many a hard assay even to the death,
Ere I the promis'd kingdom can attain, 265
Or work redemption for mankind, whose sin's
Full weight must be transferr'd upon my head
Yet, neither thus disheart'nd nor dismay'd,
The time prefixt I waited, when behold
The Baptist (of whose birth I oft had heard, 270
Not knew by sight) now come, who was to come
Before Messiah and his way prepare
I as all others to his baptism came,
Which I believ'd was from above, but he
Straight knew me, and with loudest voice proclaim'd 275
Me him (for it was shewn him so from Heaven)
Me him whose harbinger he was, and first
Refus'd on me his baptism to confer,
As much his greater, and was hardly won
But as I rose out of the laving stream, 280
Heaven open'd her eternal doors, from whence
The Spirit descended on me like a dove,
And last the sum of all, my Father's voice,
Audibly heard from Heav'n, pronounc'd me his,
Me his beloved Son, in whom alone 285
He was well pleas'd, by which I knew the time
Now full, that I no more should live obscure,
But openly begin, as best becomes
The authority which I deriv'd from Heaven
And now by some strong motion I am led 290
Into this wilderness, to what intent

I learn not yet, perhaps I need not know,
For what concerns my knowledge God reveals'

So spake our Morning-Star then in his rise,
And looking round on every side beheld 295

A pathless desert, dusk with horrid shades,
The way he came not having mark'd, return
Was difficult, by human steps untrod,
And he still on was led, but with such thoughts
Accompanied of things past and to come 300

Lodg'd in his breast, as well might recommend
Such solitude before choicest society

Full forty days he pass'd, whether on hill
Sometimes, anon on shady vale, each night
Under the covert of some ancient oak, 305

Or cedar, to defend him from the dew,
Or harbour'd in one cave, is not reveal'd,
Nor tasted human food, nor hunger felt
Till those days ended, hunger'd then at last
Among wild beasts they at his sight grew mild, 310
Nor sleeping him nor waking harm'd, his walk
The fiery serpent fled, and noxious worm,

The lion and fierce tiger glar'd aloof
But now an aged man in rural weeds,

Following, as seem'd, the quest of some stray ewe, 315
Or wither'd sticks to gather, which might serve

Against a winter's day when winds blow keen
To warm him wet return'd from field at eve,
He saw approach, who first with curious eye
Perus'd him, then with words thus utt'red spake 320

'Sir, what ill chance hath brought thee to this place
So far from path or road of men, who pass
In troop or caravan? for single none

Durst ever, who return'd, and dropp'd not here
His carcass, pin'd with hunger and with droughth 325

I ask the rather, and the more admire,
For that to me thou seem'st the man, whom late
Our new baptizing prophet at the ford
Of Jordan honour'd so, and call'd thee Son

Of God I saw and heard, for we sometimes 330
 Who dwell this wild, constrain'd by want, come forth
 To town or village nigh (nighest is far)
 Where aught we hear, and curious are to hear
 What happ'ns new, fame also finds us out'
 To whom the Son of God 'Who brought me hither 335
 Will bring me hence, no other guide I seek'

'By miracle he may,' repli'd the swain,
 'What other way I see not, for we here
 Live on tough roots and stubs, to thirst inur'd
 More than the camel, and to drink go far, 340
 Men to much misery and hardship born
 But if thou be the Son of God, command
 That out of these hard stones be made thee bread,
 So shalt thou save thyself, and us relieve
 With food, whereof we wretched seldom taste' 345

He ended, and the Son of God repli'd
 'Think'st thou such force in bread? Is it not written,
 (For I discern thee other than thou seem'st,)
 Man lives not by bread only, but each word
 Proceeding from the mouth of God, who fed 350
 Our fathers here with manna, in the mount
 Moses was forty days, nor eat nor drank,
 And forty days Elijah without food,
 Wandred this barren waste, the same I now
 Why dost thou then suggest to me distrust, 355
 Knowing who I am, as I know who thou art?'

Whom thus answer'd th' Arch-Fiend, now undisguis'd
 'Tis true, I am that Spirit unfortunate,
 Who leagu'd with millions more in rash revolt
 Kept not my happy station, but was driv'n 360
 With them from bliss to the bottomless deep,
 Yet to that hideous place not so confin'd
 By rigour unconniving, but that oft
 Leaving my dolorous prison I enjoy
 Large liberty to round this globe of Earth, 365
 Or range in th' air, nor from the Heav'n of Heav'ns
 Hath he excluded my resort sometimes

I came among the sons of God, when he
Gave up into my hands Uzzean Job
To prove him, and illustrate his high worth, 370
And when to all his angels he propos'd
To draw the proud king Ahab into fraud
That he might fall in Ramoth, they demurring,
I undertook that office, and the tongues
Of all his flattering prophets glibb'd with lies 375
To his destruction, as I had in charge,
For what he bids I do though I have lost
Much lustre of my native brightness, lost
To be belov'd of God, I have not lost
To love, at least contemplate and admire 380
What I see excellent in good, or fair,
Or virtuous, I should so have lost all sense
What can be then less in me than desire
To see thee, and approach thee, whom I know
Declar'd the Son of God, to hear attent 385
Thy wisdom, and behold thy Godlike deeds?
Men generally think me much a foe
To all mankind why should I? they to me
Never did wrong or violence, by them
I lost not what I lost, rather by them 390
I gain'd what I have gain'd, and with them dwell
Co-partner in these regions of the world,
If not disposer, lend them oft my aid,
Oft my advice by presages and signs,
And answers, oracles, portents and dreams, 395
Whereby they may direct their future life
Envy they say excites me, thus to gain
Companions of my misery and woe
At first it may be, but long since with woe
Nearer acquainted, now I feel by proof, 400
That fellowship in pain divides not smart,
Nor lightens aught each man's peculiar load.
Small consolation then, were Man adjoin'd
This wounds me most (what can it less?) that Man,
Man fall'n shall be restor'd, I never more ' 405

To whom our Saviour sternly thus repli'd
'Deservedly thou griev'st, compos'd of lies
From the beginning, and in lies wilt end,
Who boast'st release from Hell, and leave to come
Into the Heav'n of Heavens thou com'st indeed 410
As a poor miserable captive thrall
Comes to the place where he before had sat
Among the prime in splendour, now depos'd,
Ejected, empti'd, gaz'd, unpitied, shunn'd,
A spectacle of ruin or of scorn 415
To all the host of Heaven the happy place
Imparts to thee no happiness, no joy,
Rather inflames thy torment, representing
Lost bliss, to thee no more communicable,
So never more in Hell than when in Heaven 420
But thou art serviceable to Heaven's King
Wilt thou impute to obedience what thy fear
Extorts, or pleasure to do ill excites?
What but thy malice moved thee to misdeem
Of righteous Job, then cruelly to afflict him 425
With all inflictions? but his patience won
The other service was thy chosen task,
To be a liar in four hundred mouths,
For lying is thy sustenance, thy food
Yet thou pretend'st to truth, all oracles 430
By thee are giv'n, and what confest more true
Among the nations? that hath been thy craft,
By mixing somewhat true to vent more lies
But what have been thy answers? what but dark,
Ambiguous, and with double sense deluding, 435
Which they who ask'd have seldom understood,
And not well understood as good not known
Who ever by consulting at thy shrine
Return'd the wiser, or the more instruct,
To fly or follow what concern'd him most, 440
And run not sooner to his fatal snare?
For God hath justly giv'n the nations up
To thy delusions, justly, since they fell

Idolatrous but when his purpose is
Among them to declare his Providence 445
To thee not known, whence hast thou then thy truth,
But from him or his angels president
In every province, who themselves disdaining
T' approach thy temples, give thee in command
What to the smallest tittle thou shalt say 450
To thy adorers? Thou with trembling fear,
Or like a fawning parasite obey'st,
Then to thyself ascrib'st the truth foretold
But this thy glory shall be soon retrench'd,
No more shalt thou by oracling abuse 455
The Gentiles, henceforth oracles are ceast,
And thou no more with pomp and sacrifice
Shalt be inquir'd at Delphos or elsewhere,
At least in vain, for they shall find thee mute
God hath now sent his living Oracle 460
Into the world, to teach his final will,
And sends his Spirit of truth henceforth to dwell
In pious hearts, an inward oracle
To all truth requisite for men to know'
So spake our Saviour, but the subtle Fiend, 465
Though mly stung with anger and disdain,
Dissembl'd, and this answer smooth return'd
'Sharply thou hast insisted on rebuke,
And urg'd me hard with doings, which not will
But misery hath wrested from me Where 470
Easily canst thou find one miserable,
And not enforc'd ofttimes to part from truth,
If it may stand him more in stead to lie,
Say and unsay, feign, flatter, or abjure?
But thou art plac't above me, thou art Lord, 475
From thee I can and must submiss endure
Check or reproof, and glad to 'scape so quit
Hard are the ways of truth, and rough to walk,
Smooth on the tongue discourst, pleasing to th' ear,
And tunable as silvan pipe or song, 480
What wonder then if I delight to hear

Her dictates from thy mouth? Most men admire
Virtue, who follow not her lore permit me
To hear thee when I come, (since no man comes,)
And talk at least, though I despair to attain 485
Thy Father, who is holy, wise, and pure,
Suffers the hypocrite or atheous priest
To tread his sacred courts, and minister
About his altar, handling holy things,
Praying or vowing, and vouchsaf'd his voice 490
To Balaam reprobate, a prophet yet
Inspir'd disdain not such access to me'

To whom our Saviour with unalter'd brow
'Thy coming hither, though I know thy scope,
I bid not or forbid, do as thou find'st 495
Permission from above, thou canst not more'

He added not, and Satan bowing low
His gray dissimulation, disappear'd
Into thin air diffus'd for now began
Night with her sullen wings to double-shade 500
The desert, fowls in their clay nests were crouch't,
And now wild beasts came forth the woods to roam

BOOK II

MEANWHILE the new-baptiz'd, who yet remain'd
At Jordan with the Baptist, and had seen
Him whom they heard so late expressly call'd
Jesus Messiah Son of God declar'd,
And on that high authority had believ'd, 5
And with him talkt, and with him lodg'd, I mean,
Andrew and Simon, famous after known,
With others though in Holy Writ not nam'd,
Now missing him their joy so lately found,
So lately found, and so abruptly gone, 10
Began to doubt, and doubted many days,
And, as the days increas'd, increas'd their doubt
Sometimes they thought he might be only shewn,
And for a time caught up to God, as once
Moses was in the mount, and missing long, 15
And the great Thisbite, who on fiery wheels
Rode up to Heaven, yet once again to come
Therefore as those young prophets then with care
Sought lost Elijah, so in each place these
Nigh to Bethabara, in Jericho 20
The city of palms, Ænon, and Salem old,
Machærus, and each town or city wall'd
On this side the broad lake Genezaret,
Or in Peræa, but return'd in vain
Then on the bank of Jordan, by a creek 25
Where winds with reeds and osiers whisp'ring play,
Plain fishermen, no greater men them call,
Close in a cottage low together got,

To have conceiv'd of God, or that salute,
"Hail highly favour'd, among women blest!"
While I to sorrows am no less advanc't
And fears as eminent, above the lot 70
Of other women, by the birth I bore,
In such a season born when scarce a shed
Could be obtain'd to shelter him or me
From the bleak air, a stable was our warmth,
A manger his, yet soon enforc't to fly 75
Thence into Egypt, till the murd'rous king
Were dead, who sought his life, and missing fill'd
With infant blood the streets of Bethlehem,
From Egypt home return'd, in Nazareth
Hath been our dwelling many years, his life 80
Private, unactive, calm, contemplative,
Little suspicious to any king, but now
Full grown to man, acknowledg'd, as I hear,
By John the Baptist, and in public shown,
Son own'd from Heaven by his Father's voice, 85
I look't for some great change, to honour? no,
But trouble, as old Simeon plain foretold,
That to the fall and rising he should be
Of many in Israel, and to a sign
Spoken against, that through my very soul 90
A sword shall pierce, this is my favour'd lot,
My exaltation to afflictions high,
Afflicted I may be, it seems, and blest,
I will not argue that, nor will repine
But where delays he now? some great intent 95
Conceals him when twelve years he scarce had seen,
I lost him, but so found, as well I saw
He could not lose himself, but went about
His Father's business, what he meant I mus'd,
Since understand, much more his absence now 100
Thus long to some great purpose he obscures
But I to wait with patience am inur'd,
My heart hath been a store-house long of things
And savings laid up, portending strange events'

Thus Mary pondering oft, and oft to mind 105
 Recalling what remarkably had pass'd
 Since first her salutation heard, with thoughts
 Meekly compos'd awaited the fulfilling
 The while her Son tracing the desert wild,
 Sole but with holiest meditations fed, 110
 Into himself descended, and at once
 All his great work to come before him set,
 How to begin, how to accomplish best
 His end of being on Earth, and mission high
 For Satan with sly preface to return 115
 Had left him vacant, and with speed was gone
 Up to the middle region of thick air,
 Where all his potentates in council sate,
 There without sign of boast, or sign of joy,
 Solicitous and blank he thus began 120
 'Princes, Heaven's ancient Sons, ethereal Thrones,
 Demonian Spirits now, from the element
 Each of his reign allotted, rightlier call'd
 Powers of Fire, Air, Water, and Earth beneath,
 So may we hold our place and these mild seats 125
 Without new trouble, such an enemy
 Is ris'n to invade us, who no less
 Threat'ns than our expulsion down to Hell,
 I, as I undertook, and with the vote
 Consenting in full frequence was empower'd, 130
 Have found him, view'd him, tasted him, but find
 Far other labour to be undergone
 Than when I dealt with Adam, first of men,
 Though Adam by his wife's allurements fell,
 However to this Man inferior far, 135
 (If he be Man by mother's side at least,)
 With more than human gifts from Heaven adorn'd,
 Perfections absolute, graces divine,
 And amplitude of mind to greatest deeds
 Therefore I am return'd, lest confidence 140
 Of my success with Eve in Paradise
 Deceive ye to persuasion over-sure
 Of like succeeding here, I summon all

Rather to be in readiness, with hand
 Or counsel to assist, lest I who erst
 Thought none my equal, now be over-match'd' 145

So spake the old Serpent doubting, and from all
 With clamour was assur'd their utmost aid
 At his command, when from amidst them rose
 Belial, the dissolutest Spirit that fell, 150
 The sensuallest, and after Asmodei
 The fleshliest Incubus, and thus advis'd

'Set women in his eye and in his walk,
 Among daughters of men the fairest found
 Many are in each region passing fair 155
 As the noon sky, more like to goddesses
 Than mortal creatures, graceful and discreet,

Expert in amorous arts, enchanting tongues
 Persuasive, virgin majesty with mild
 And sweet allay'd, yet terrible to approach, 160
 Skill'd to retire, and in retiring draw

Hearts after them tangl'd in amorous nets
 Such object hath the power to soft'n and tame
 Severest temper, smooth the rugged'st brow,
 Enerve, and with voluptuous hope dissolve, 165
 Draw out with credulous desire, and lead
 At will the manliest, resolute breast,

As the magnetic hardest iron draws
 Women, when nothing else, beguild the heart
 Of wisest Solomon, and made him build,
 And made him bow to the gods of his wives'

To whom quick answer Satan thus return'd
 'Belial, in much uneven scale thou weigh'st
 All others by thyself, because of old *
 Thou thyself doat'st on womankind, admiring 175
 Their shape, their colour, and attractive grace,
 None are, thou think'st, but taken with such toys
 Before the Flood thou with thy lusty crew,
 False titl'd sons of God, roaming the Earth

Cast wanton eyes on the daughters of men, 180
 And coupl'd with them, and begot a race

Have we not seen, or by relation heard,
 In courts and regal chambers how thou lurk'st,
 In wood or grove by mossy fountain side,
 In valley or green meadow to way-lay 185
 Some beauty rare, Calisto, Clymene,
 Daphne, or Semele, Antiopa,
 Or Amymone, Syrinx, many more
 Too long, then lay'st thy scapes on names ador'd,
 Apollo, Neptune, Jupiter, or Pan, 190
 Satyr, or Faun, or Silvan? But these haunts
 Delight not all, among the sons of men,
 How many have with a smile made small account
 Of Beauty and her lures, easily scorn'd
 All her assaults, on worthier things intent! 195
 Remember that Pellean conqueror,
 A youth, how all the beauties of the East
 He slightly view'd, and slightly overpass'd,
 How he surnam'd of Africa dismiss'd
 In his prime youth the fair Iberian maid 200
 For Solomon, he liv'd at ease, and full
 Of honour, wealth, high fare, aim'd not beyond
 Higher design than to enjoy his state,
 Thence to the bait of women lay expos'd
 But he whom we attempt is wiser far 205
 Than Solomon, of more exalted mind,
 Made and set wholly on the accomplishment
 Of greatest things What woman will you find,
 Though of this age the wonder and the fame,
 On whom his leisure will vouchsafe an eye 210
 Of fond desire? Or should she confident,
 As sitting queen ador'd on Beauty's throne,
 Descend with all her winning charms begirt
 To enamour, as the zone of Venus once
 Wrought that effect on Jove, so fables tell, 215
 How would one look from his majestic brow
 Seated as on the top of Virtue's hill,
 Discount'nance her despis'd, and put to rout
 All her array, her female pride deject,

Or turn to reverent awe' for Beauty stands 220
In the admiration only of weak minds
Led captive, cease to admire, and all her plumes
Fall flat, and shrink into a trivial toy,
At every sudden slighting quite abasht
Therefore with manlier objects we must try 225
His constancy, with such as have more shew
Of worth, of honour, glory, and popular praise,
Rocks whereon greatest men have ofttest wreck'd,
Or that which only seems to satisfy
Lawful desires of Nature, not beyond, 230
And now I know he hungers where no food
Is to be found, in the wide wilderness,
The rest commit to me, I shall let pass
No advantage, and his strength as oft assay'

He ceas'd, and heard their grant in loud acclaim, 235
Then forthwith to him takes a chosen band
Of spirits likest to himself in guile
To be at hand, and at his beck appear,
If cause were to unfold some active scene
Of various persons each to know his part, 240
Then to the desert takes with these his flight,
Where still from shade to shade the Son of God
After forty days fasting had remain'd,
Now hung'ring first, and to himself thus said

'Where will this end?' four times ten days I have pass'd
Wandering this woody maze, and human food 246
Nor tasted, nor had appetite, that fast
To virtue I impute not, or count part
Of what I suffer here, if Nature need not,
Or God support Nature without repast
Though needing, what praise is it to endure?
But now I feel I hunger, which declares
Nature hath need of what she asks, yet God
Can satisfy that need some other way,
Though hunger still remain so it remain
Without this body's wasting, I content me,
And from the sting of famine fear no harm,

Nor mind it, fed with better thoughts that feed
Me hungry more to do my Father's will'

It was the hour of night, when thus the Son 260
Commun'd in silent walk, then laid him down
Under the hospitable covert nigh
Of trees thick interwoven, there he slept,
And dream'd, as appetite is wont to dream,
Of meats and drinks, Nature's refreshment sweet 265
Him thought, he by the brook of Cherith stood,
And saw the ravens with their horny beaks
Food to Elijah bringing even and morn,
Though ravenous, taught to abstain from what they brought
He saw the prophet also how he fled 270
Into the desert, and how there he slept
Under a juniper, then how awak't
He found his supper on the coals prepar'd,
And by the angel was bid rise and eat,
And eat the second time after repose, 275
The strength whereof suffic'd him forty days
Sometimes that with Elijah he partook,
Or as a guest with Daniel at his pulse
Thus wore out night, and now the herald lark
Left his ground-nest, high tow'ring to descry 280
The Morn's approach, and greet her with his song,
As lightly from his grassy couch up rose
Our Saviour, and found all was but a dream,
Fasting he went to sleep, and fasting wak'd
Up to a hill anon his steps he rear'd, 285
From whose high top to ken the prospect round,
If cottage were in view, sheep-cote, or herd,
But cottage, herd, or sheep-cote none he saw, ✕
Only in a bottom saw a pleasant grove,
With chant of tuneful birds resounding loud, 290
Thither he bent his way, determin'd there
To rest at noon, and entr'd soon the shade
High-rooft, and walks beneath, and alleys brown
That open'd in the midst a woody scene,
Nature's own work it seem'd (Nature taught Art) 295

And to a superstitious eye the haunt
Of wood-gods and wood-nymphs, he view'd it round,
When suddenly a man before him stood,
Not rustic as before, but seemlier clad,
As one in city, or court, or palace bred, 300
And with fair speech these words to him address'd

‘With granted leave officious I return,
But much more wonder that the Son of God
In this wild solitude so long should bide
Of all things destitute, and well I know, 305
Not without hunger Others of some note,
As story tells, have trod this wilderness,
The fugitive bond-woman with her son,
Out-cast Nebaioth, yet found here relief
By a providing angel, all the race ’’ 310
Of Israel here had famish'd, had not God
Rain'd from Heaven manna, and that prophet bold,
Native of Thebez, wandring here was fed
Twice by a voice inviting him to eat
Of thee these forty days none hath regard, 315
Forty and more deserted here indeed’

To whom thus Jesus ‘What conclud'st thou hence?
They all had need, I as thou seest have none’

‘How hast thou hunger then?’ Satan repli'd
‘Tell me, if food were now before thee set, 320
Would'st thou not eat?’ ‘Thereafter as I like
The giver,’ answer'd Jesus ‘Why should that
Cause thy refusal?’ said the subtle Fiend
‘Hast thou not right to all created things?
Owe not all creatures by just right to thee 325
Duty and service, nor to stay till bid,
But tender all their power? Nor mention I
Meats by the law unclean, or offer'd first
To idols, those young Daniel could refuse,
Nor proffer'd by an enemy, though who 330
Would scruple that, with want oppress'd behold
Nature asham'd, or better to express,
Troubl'd that thou should'st hunger, hath purvey'd

From all the elements her choicest store,
 To treat thee as beseems, and as her Lord 335
 With honour only deign to sit and eat'
 He spake no dream, for as his words had end,
 Our Saviour lifting up his eyes beheld
 In ample space under the broadest shade
 A table richly spread, in regal mode, 340
 With dishes pil'd, and meats of noblest sort
 And savour, beasts of chase, or fowl of game,
 In pastry built, or from the spit, or boil'd,
 Gris-amber-steam'd, all fish, from sea or shore,
 Freshet, or purling brook, of shell or fin, 345
 And exquisitest name, for which was drain'd
 Pontus, and Lucrine bay, and Afric coast
 Alas, how simple, to these cates compar'd,
 Was that crude apple that diverted Eve!
 And at a stately side-board by the wine 350
 That fragrant smell diffus'd, in order stood
 Tall stripling youths rich clad, of fairer hue
 Than Ganymed or Hylas, distant more
 Under the trees now tripp'd, now solemn stood
 Nymphs of Diana's train, and Naiades 355
 With fruits and flowers from Amalthea's horn,
 And ladies of th' Hesperides, that seem'd
 Fairer than feign'd of old, or fabled since
 Of fairy damsels met in forest wide
 By knights of Logres, or of Lyones, 360
 Lancelot, or Pelleas, or Pellenore
 And all the while harmonious airs were heard
 Of chiming strings or charming pipes, and winds
 Of gentlest gale Arabian odours fann'd
 From their soft wings, and Flora's earliest smells 365
 Such was the splendour, and the Tempter now
 His invitation earnestly renewed
 'What doubts the Son of God to sit and eat?
 These are not fruits forbidd'n, no interdict
 Defends the touching of these viands pure, 370
 Their taste no knowledge works, at least of evil,

But life preserves, destroys life's enemy,
Hunger, with sweet restorative delight
All these are spirits of air, and woods, and springs,
Thy gentle ministers, who come to pay 375
Thee homage, and acknowledge thee their Lord
What doubt'st thou, Son of God? Sit down and eat'

To whom thus Jesus temperately repli'd
'Said'st thou not that to all things I had right?
And who withholds my pow'r that right to use? 380
Shall I receive by gift what of my own,
When and where likes me best, I can command?
I can at will, doubt not, as soon as thou,
Command a table in this wilderness,
And call swift flights of angels ministrant 385
Array'd in glory on my cup to attend
Why should'st thou then obtrude this diligence,
In vain, where no acceptance it can find?
And with my hunger what hast thou to do?
Thy pompous delicacies I condemn, 390
And count thy specious gifts no gifts, but guiles'

To whom thus answer'd Satan malcontent
'That I have also pow'r to give thou seest,
If of that pow'r I bring thee voluntary
What I might have bestow'd on whom I pleas'd, 395
And rather opportunely in this place
Chose to impart to thy apparent need,
Why should'st thou not accept it? but I see
What I can do or offer is suspect
Of these things others quickly will dispose 400
Whose pains have earn'd the far-fet spoil' With that
Both table and provision vanish'd quite,
With sound of harpies' wings and talons heard
Only the importune Tempter still remain'd,
And with these words his temptation pursu'd 405

'By hunger, that each other creature tames,
Thou art not to be harm'd, therefore not mov'd;
Thy temperance invincible besides,
For no allurement yields to appetite,

And all thy heart is set on high designs, 410
High actions, but wherewith to be achiev'd ?
Great acts require great means of enterprise,
Thou art unknown, unfriended, low of birth,
A carpenter thy father known, thyself
Bred up in poverty and straits at home, 415
Lost in a desert here and hunger-bit
Which way, or from what hope, dost thou aspire
To greatness? whence authority deriv'st ?
What followers, what retinue canst thou gain,
Or at thy heels the dizzy multitude, 420
Longer than thou can'st feed them on thy cost ?
Money brings honour, friends, conquest, and realms,
What rais'd Antipater the Edomite,
And his son Herod plac'd on Judah's throne,
(Thy throne) but gold that got him puissant friends ? 425
Therefore, if at great things thou would'st arrive,
Get riches first, get wealth, and treasure heap,
Not difficult, if thou hearken to me
Riches are mine, fortune is in my hand,
They whom I favour thrive in wealth amain, 430
While Virtue, Valour, Wisdom, sit in want '
To whom thus Jesus patiently replied
' Yet wealth, without these three, is impotent
To gain dominion, or to keep it gain'd
Witness those antient empires of the Earth, 435
In highth of all their flowing wealth dissolv'd
But men endu'd with these have oft attain'd
In lowest poverty to highest deeds,
Gideon, and Jephtha, and the shepherd lad,
Whose offspring on the throne of Judah sat 440
So many ages, and shall yet regain
That seat, and reign in Israel without end
Among the heathen, (for throughout the world
To me is not unknown what hath been done
Worthy of memorial,) canst thou not remember 445
Quintus, Fabricus, Curius, Regulus ?
For I esteem those names of men so poor

Who could do mighty things, and could contemn
Riches though offer'd from the hand of kings
And what in me seems wanting, but that I 450
May also in this poverty as soon
Accomplish what they did, perhaps and more?
Extol not riches then, the toil of fools,
The wise man's cumbrance, if not snare, more apt
To slacken Virtue, and abate her edge, 455
Than prompt her to do aught may merit praise
What if with like aversion I reject
Riches and realms? yet not for that a crown,
Golden in show, is but a wreath of thorns,
Brings dangers, troubles, cares, and sleepless nights, 460
To him who wears the regal diadem,
When on his shoulders each man's burden lies,
For therein stands the office of a king,
His honour, virtue, merit, and chief praise,
That for the public all this weight he bears 465
Yet he, who reigns within himself, and rules
Passions, desires, and fears, is more a king,
Which every wise and virtuous man attains,
And who attains not, ill aspires to rule
Cities of men, or headstrong multitudes, 470
Subject himself to anarchy within,
Or lawless passions in him which he serves
But to guide nations in the way of truth
By saving doctrine, and from error lead
To know, and knowing worship God aright, 475
Is yet more kingly, this attracts the soul,
Governs the inner man, the nobler part,
That other o'er the body only reigns,
And oft by force, which to a generous mind
So reigning, can be no sincere delight 480
Besides, to give a kingdom hath been thought
Greater and nobler done, and to lay down
Far more magnanimous, than to assume
Riches are needless then, both for themselves,
And for thy reason why they should be sought, 485
To gain a sceptre, ofttest better miss't'

BOOK III

So spake the Son of God, and Satan stood
A while as mute, confounded what to say,
What to reply, confuted, and convinc't
Of his weak arguing, and fallacious drift,
At length, collecting all his serpent wiles, 5
With soothing words renew'd, him thus accosts
'I see thou know'st what is of use to know,
What best to say canst say, to do canst do
Thy actions to thy words accord, thy words
To thy large heart give utterance due, thy heart 10
Contains of good, wise, just, the perfect shape
Should kings and nations from thy mouth consult,
Thy counsel would be as the oracle
Urim and Thummim, those oraculous gems
On Aaron's breast, or tongue of seers old, 15
Infallible or wert thou sought to deeds
That might require th' array of war, thy skill
Of conduct would be such, that all the world
Could not sustain thy prowess, or subsist
In battle, though against thy few in arms 20
These godlike virtues wherefore dost thou hide?
Affecting private life, or more obscure
In savage wilderness? Wherefore deprive
All Earth her wonder at thy acts, thyself
The fame and glory, glory the reward 25
That sole excites to high attempts the flame
Of most erected spirits, most temper'd pure
Ethereal, who all pleasures else despise,

All treasures and all gain esteem as dross,
 And dignities and powers all but the highest? 30
 Thy years are ripe, and over-ripe, the son
 Of Macedonian Philip had ere these
 Won Asia, and the throne of Cyrus held
 At his dispose, young Scipio had brought down
 The Carthaginian pride, young Pompey quell'd 35
 The Pontic king and in triumph had rode
 Yet years, and to ripe years judgment mature,
 Quench not the thirst of glory, but augment
 Great Julius, whom now all the world admires,
 The more he grew in years, the more inflam'd 40
 With glory, wept that he had liv'd so long
 Inglorious but thou yet art not too late'
 To whom our Saviour calmly thus repli'd
 'Thou neither dost persuade me to seek wealth
 For empire's sake, nor empire to affect 45
 For glory's sake, by all thy argument
 For what is glory but the blaze of fame,
 The people's praise, if always praise unmixt?
 And what the people but a herd confus'd,
 A miscellaneous rabble, who extol 50
 Things vulgar, and, well weigh'd, scarce worth the praise?
 They praise and they admire they know not what,
 And know not whom, but as one leads the other,
 And what delight to be by such extoll'd,
 To live upon their tongues and be their talk, 55
 Of whom to be disprais'd were no small praise?
 His lot who dares be singularly good
 Th' intelligent among them and the wise
 Are few, and glory scarce of few is rais'd
 This is true glory and renown, when God 60
 Looking on the Earth, with approbation marks
 The just man, and divulges him through Heaven
 To all his angels, who with true applause
 Recount his praises thus he did to Job,
 When to extend his fame through Heaven and Earth, 65
 As thou to thy reproach may'st well remember,

He ask'd thee, "Hast thou seen my servant Job?"
 Famous he was in Heaven, on Earth less known,
 Where glory is false glory, attributed
 To things not glorious, men not worthy of fame 70
 They err who count it glorious to subdue
 By conquest far and wide, to overrun
 Large countries, and in field great battles win,
 Great cities by assault what do these worthies,
 But rob and spoil, burn, slaughter, and enslave 75
 Peaceable nations, neighbouring, or remote,
 Made captive, yet deserving freedom more
 Than those their conquerors, who leave behind
 Nothing but ruin wheresoe'er they rove,
 And all the flourishing works of peace destroy, 80
 Then swell with pride, and must be titled Gods,
 Great Benefactors of mankind, Deliverers,
 Worshipt with temple, priest, and sacrifice?
 One is the son of Jove, of Mars the other,
 Till conqueror Death discover them scarce men, 85
 Rolling in brutish vices, and deform'd,
 Violent or shameful death then due reward
 But if there be in glory aught of good,
 It may by means far different be attain'd,
 Without ambition, war, or violence, 90
 By deeds of peace, by wisdom eminent,
 By patience, temperance I mention still
 Him whom thy wrongs with saintly patience borne,
 Made famous in a land and times obscure,
 Who names not now with honour patient Job? 95
 Poor Socrates (who next more memorable?)
 By what he taught and suffer'd for so doing,
 For truth's sake suffering death unjust, lives now
 Equal in fame to proudest conquerors
 Yet if for fame and glory aught be done, 100
 Aught suffer'd, if young African for fame
 His wasted country freed from Punic rage,
 The deed becomes unprais'd, the man at least,
 And loses, though but verbal, his reward

Shall I seek glory then, as vain men seek 105
Oft not deserv'd? I seek not mine, but his
Who sent me, and thereby witness whence I am'

To whom the Tempter murmuring thus repli'd
'Think not so slight of glory, therein least
Resembling thy great Father, he seeks glory, 110
And for his glory all things made, all things
Orders and governs, nor content in Heaven
By all his angels glorifi'd, requires
Glory from men, from all men good or bad,
Wise or unwise, no difference, no exemption, 115
Above all sacrifice, or hallow'd gift
Glory he requires, and glory he receives
Promiscuous from all nations, Jew or Greek,
Or barbarous, nor exception hath declar'd,
From us his foes pronounc't glory he exacts' 120

To whom our Saviour fervently repli'd
'And reason, since his word all things produc'd,
Though chiefly not for glory as prime end,
But to show forth his goodness, and impart
His good communicable to every soul 125
Freely, of whom what could he less expect
Than glory and benediction, that is thanks,
The slightest, easiest, readiest recompense
From them who could return him nothing else,
And, not returning that would likeliest render 130
Contempt instead, dishonour, obloquy?
Hard recompense, unsuitable return
For so much good so much beneficence
But why should Man seek glory, who of his own
Hath nothing, and to whom nothing belongs 135
But condemnation, ignominy, and shame?
Who for so many benefits receiv'd
Turn'd recreant to God, ingrate and false,
And so of all true good himself despoil'd,
Yet, sacrilegious, to himself would take 140
That which to God alone of right belongs
Yet so much bounty is in God, such grace,

That who advance his glory, not their own,
Them he himself to glory will advance '
So spake the Son of God, and here again 145
Satan had not to answer, but stood struck
With guilt of his own sin, for he himself
Insatiable of glory had lost all
Yet of another plea bethought him soon
'Of glory as thou wilt,' said he, 'so deem , 150
Worth or not worth the seeking, let it pass
But to a kingdom thou art born, ordain'd
To sit upon thy father David's throne,
By mother's side thy father, though thy right
Be now in powerful hands, that will not part 155
Easily from possession won with arms
Judea now and all the Promis'd Land,
Reduc't a province under Roman yoke,
Obeys Tiberius, nor is always rul'd
With temperate sway, oft have they violated 160
The Temple, oft the Law with foul affronts,
Abominations rather, as did once
Antiochus and think'st thou to regain
Thy right by sitting still or thus retiring?
So did not Maccabeus he indeed 165
Retir'd into the desert, but with arms
And o'er a mighty king so oft prevail'd,
That by strong hand his family obtain'd,
Tho' priests, the crown, and David's throne usurp'd,
With Modin and her suburbs once content 170
If kingdom move thee not, let move thee zeal
And duty, zeal and duty are not slow,
But on occasion's forelock watchful wait
They themselves rather are occasion best,
Zeal of thy father's house, duty to free 175
Thy country from her heathen servitude
So shalt thou best fulfil, best verify
The prophets old, who sung thy endless reign
The happier reign the sooner it begins
Reign then, what can'st thou better do the while?' 180

To whom our Saviour answer thus return'd
'All things are best fulfill'd in their due time,
And time there is for all things, Truth hath said
If of my reign prophetic writ hath told
That it shall never end, so when begin 185
The Father in his purpose hath decreed,
He in whose hand all times and seasons roll
What if he hath decreed that I shall first
Be tri'd in humble state, and things adverse,
By tribulations, injuries, insults, 190
Contempts, and scorns, and snares, and violence,
Suffering, abstaining, quietly expecting
Without distrust or doubt, that he may know
What I can suffer, how obey? Who best
Can suffer, best can do, best reign, who first 195
Well hath obey'd, just trial ere I merit
My exaltation without change or end
But what concerns it thee, when I begin
My everlasting kingdom? Why art thou
Solicitous? What moves thy inquisition? 200
Know'st thou not that, my rising is thy fall,
And my promotion will be thy destruction?"

To whom the Tempter inly ract repli'd
'Let that come when it comes, all hope is lost
Of my reception into grace what worse? 205
,For where no hope is left, is left no fear
If there be worse, the expectation more
Of worse torments me than the feeling can
I would be at the worst worst is my port,
My harbour and my ultimate repose, 210
The end I would attain, my final good
My error was my error, and my crime
My crime, whatever, for itself condemn'd,
And will alike be punish'd, whether thou
Reign or reign not, though to that gentle brow 215
Willingly could I fly, and hope thy reign,
From that placid aspect and meek regard,
Rather than aggravate my evil state,

Would stand between me and thy Father's ire,
(Whose ire I dread more than the fire of Hell) 220
A shelter and a kind of shading cool
Interposition, as a summer's cloud
If I then to the worst that can be haste,
Why move thy feet so slow to what is best,
Happiest both to thyself and all the world, 225
That thou who worthiest art should'st be their king?
Perhaps thou linger'st in deep thoughts detain'd
Of the enterprise so hazardous and high,
No wonder, for though in thee be united
What of perfection can in man be found, 230
Or human nature can receive, consider,
Thy life hath yet been private, most part spent
At home, scarce view'd the Galilean towns,
And once a-year Jerusalem, few days'
Short sojourn, and what thence could'st thou observe? 235
The world thou hast not seen, much less her glory,
Empires, and monarchs, and their radiant courts,
Best school of best experience, quickest insight
In all things that to greatest actions lead
The wisest, unexperienc't, will be ever 240
Timorous and loath, with novice modesty,
(As he who seeking asses found a kingdom,)
Irresolute, unhardy, unadventurous
But I will bring thee where thou soon shalt quit
Those rudiments, and see before thine eyes 245
The monarchies of the Earth, their pomp and state,
Sufficient introduction to inform
Thee, of thyself so apt, in regal arts
And regal mysteries, that thou may'st know
How best their opposition to withstand' 250
With that (such power was given him then) he took
The Son of God up to a mountain high
It was a mountain at whose verdant feet
A spacious plain outstretch't in circuit wide,
Lay pleasant, from his side two rivers flow'd, 255
Th' one winding, th' other straight, and left between

Fair champain with less rivers intervein'd,
Then meeting join'd their tribute to the sea,
Fertile of corn the glebe, of oil, and wine,
With herds the pastures throng'd, with flocks the hills, 260
Huge cities and high tow'r'd, that well might seem
The seats of mightiest monarchs, and so large
The prospect was, that here and there was room
For barren desert, fountainless and dry
To this high mountain top the Tempter brought 265
Our Saviour, and new train of words began
 'Well have we speeded, and o'er hill and dale,
Forest and field and flood, temples and towers
Cut shorter many a league, here thou behold'st
Assyria and her empire's ancient bounds, 270
Araxes and the Caspian lake, thence on
As far as Indus east, Euphrates west,
And oft beyond, to south the Persian bay,
And inaccessible the Arabian drouth
Here Nineveh, of length within her wall 275
Several days' journey, built by Ninus old,
Of that first golden monarchy the seat,
And seat of Salmanassar, whose success
Israel in long captivity still mourns,
There Babylon the wonder of all tongues, 280
As antient, but rebuilt by him who twice
Judah and all thy father David's house
Led captive, and Jerusalem laid waste,
Till Cyrus set them free, Persepolis,
His city there thou seest, and Bactra there; 285
Ecbatana her structure vast there shows,
And Hecatompylos her hunderd gates,
There Susa by Choaspes, amber stream,
The drink of none but kings, of later fame,
Built by Emathian or by Parthian hands, 290
The great Seleucia, Nisibis, and there
Artaxata, Teredon, Ctesiphon,
Turning with easy eye thou may'st behold
All these the Parthian, now some ages past,

By great Arsaces led, who founded first 295
That empire, under his dominion holds
From the luxurious kings of Antioch won
And just in time thou com'st to have a view
Of his great power, for now the Parthian king
In Ctesiphon hath gather'd all his host 300
Against the Scythian, whose incursions wild
Have wasted Sogdiana, to her aid
He marches now in haste, see, though from far,
His thousands, in what martial equipage
They issue forth, steel bows and shafts their arms, 305
Of equal dread in flight, or in pursuit,
All horsemen, in which fight they most excel,
See how in warlike muster they appear,
In rhombs, and wedges, and half-moons, and wings'
He look't, and saw what numbers numberless 310
The city gates outpour'd, light-arm'd troops
In coats of mail and military pride,
In mail their horses clad, yet fleet and strong,
Prancing their riders bore, the flower and choice
Of many provinces from bound to bound, 315
From Arachosia, from Candaor east,
And Margiana to the Hyrcanian cliffs
Of Caucasus, and dark Iberian dales,
From Atropatia and the neighbouring plains
Of Adiabene, Media, and the south 320
Of Susiana to Balsara's hav'n
He saw them in their forms of battle rang'd,
How quick they wheel'd, and flying behind them shot
Sharp sleet of arrowy showers against the face
Of their pursuers, and overcame by flight, 325
The field all iron cast a gleaming brown,
Nor wanted clouds of foot, nor on each horn
Cuirassiers all in steel for standing fight,
Chariots, or elephants endorst with towers
Of archers, nor of labouring pioneers 330
A multitude with spades and axes arm'd
To lay hills plain, fell woods, or valleys fill,

Or where plain was raise hill, or overlay
With bridges rivers proud, as with a yoke ,
Mules after these, camels and dromedaries, 335
And waggons fraught with utensils of war
Such forces met not, nor so wide a camp,
When Agrican with all his northern powers
Besieg'd Albracca, as romances tell ,
The city of Gallaphrone, from whence to win 340
The fairest of her sex Angelica
His daughter, sought by many prowest knights,
Both Paynim, and the peers of Charlemane
Such and so numerous was their chivalry
At sight whereof the Fiend yet more presum'd, 345
And to our Saviour thus his words renew'd
‘That thou mayst know I seek not to engage
Thy virtue, and not every way secure
On no slight grounds thy safety, hear and mark
To what end I have brought thee hither and shew 350
All this fair sight thy kingdom though foretold
By prophet or by angel, unless thou
Endeavour, as thy father David did,
Thou never shalt obtain , prediction still
In all things, and all men, supposes means, 355
Without means us'd, what it predicts revokes
But say thou wert possess'd of David's throne
By free consent of all, none opposite,
Samaritan or Jew , how couldst thou hope
Long to enjoy it quiet and secure, 360
Between two such enclosing enemies,
Roman and Parthian? Therefore one of these
Thou must make sure thy own, the Parthian first
By my advice, as nearer and of late
Found able by invasion to annoy 365
Thy country and captive lead away her kings,
Antigonus, and old Hyrcanus bound,
Maugre the Roman it shall be my task
To render thee the Parthian at dispose,
Choose which thou wilt, by conquest or by league 370

By him thou shalt regain, without him not,
That which alone can truly re-install thee
In David's royal seat,-his true successor,
Deliverance of thy brethren, those ten tribes,
Whose offspring in his territory yet serve 375
In Habor, and among the Medes dispers't
Ten sons of Jacob, two of Joseph, lost
Thus long from Israel, serving as of old
Their fathers in the land of Egypt serv'd,
This offer sets before thee to deliver 380
These if from servitude thou shalt restore
To their inheritance, then, nor till then,
Thou on the throne of David in full glory,
From Egypt to Euphrates and beyond
Shalt reign, and Rome or Cæsar not need fear' 385
To whom our Saviour answer'd thus unmov'd
'Much ostentation vain of fleshly arm,
And fragile arms, much instrument of war,
Long in preparing, soon to nothing brought,
Before mine eyes thou hast set, and in my ear 390
Vented much policy, and projects deep
Of enemies, of aids, battles and leagues,
Plausible to the world, to me worth naught
Means I must use, thou say'st, prediction else
Will unpredict and fail me of the throne 395
My time, I told thee, (and that time for thee
Were better farthest off) is not yet come '
When that comes think not thou to find me slack
On my part aught endeavouring, or to need
Thy politic maxims, or that cumbersome 400
Luggage of war there shown me, argument
Of human weakness rather than of strength
My brethren, as thou call'st them, those ten tribes
I must deliver, if I mean to reign
David's true heir, and his full sceptre sway 405
To just extent over all Israel's sons,
But whence to thee this zeal? Where was it then
For Israel, or for David, or his throne,

When thou stood'st up his Tempter to the pride
Of numbring Israel, which cost ^{the} lives 410
Of threescore and ten thousand Israelites
By three days' pestilence? such was thy zeal
To Israel then, the same that now to me
As for those captive tribes, themselves were they
Who wrought their own captivity, fell off 415
From God to worship calves, the deities
Of Egypt, Baal next and Ashtaroth,
And all the idolatries of heathen round,
Besides their other worse than heath'nish crimes,
Nor in the land of their captivity 420
Humbled themselves, or penitent besought
The God of their forefathers, but so di'd
Impenitent, and left a race behind
Like to themselves, distinguishable scarce
From Gentiles, but by circumcision vain, 425
And God with idols in their worship join'd
Should I of these the liberty regard,
Who freed, as to their antient patrimony,
Unhumbld, unrepentant, unreform'd,
Headlong would follow, and to their Gods, perhaps, 430
Of Bethel and of Dan? No, let them serve
Their enemies, who serve idols with God
Yet he at length, time to himself best known,
Remembring Abraham, by some wondrous call
May bring them back repentant and sincere, 435
And at their passing cleave the Assyrian flood,
While to their native land with joy they haste,
As the Red Sea and Jordan once he cleft,
When to the Promis'd Land their fathers pass'd
To his due time and providence I leave them' 440

So spake Israel's true King, and to the Fiend
Made answer meet, that made void all his wiles
So fares it when with truth falsehood contends

BOOK IV

PERPLEX'D and troubl'd at his bad success
The Tempter stood, nor had what to reply,
Discover'd in his fraud, thrown from his hope
So oft, and the persuasive rhetoric
That sleek't his tongue, and won so much on Eve, 5
So little here, nay lost, but Eve was Eve,
This far his over-match, who self-deceiv'd
And rash, before-hand had no better weigh'd
The strength he was to cope with, or his own
But as a man who had been matchless held 10
In cunning, over-reach't where least he thought,
To salve his credit, and for very spite
Still will be tempting him who foils him still,
And never cease, though to his shame the more,
Or as a swarm of flies in vintage time, 15
About the wine-press where sweet must is pour'd,
Beat off, returns as oft with humming sound,
Or surging waves against a solid rock,
Though all to shivers dash't, the assault renew,
Vain batt'ry, and in froth or bubbles end, 20
So Satan, whom repulse upon repulse
Met ever, and to shameful silence brought,
Yet gives not o'er, though desperate of success,
And his vain importunity pursues
He brought our Saviour to the western side 25
Of that high mountain, whence he might behold
Another plain, long but in breadth not wide,
Wash'd by the southern sea, and on the north

To equal length back'd with a ridge of hills,
 That screen'd the fruits of the Earth and seats of men 30
 From cold Septentrion blasts, thence in the midst
 Divided by a river, of whose banks
 On each side an imperial city stood,
 With towers and temples proudly elevate
 On seven small hills, with palaces adorn'd, 35
 Porches and theatres, baths, aqueducts,
 Statues and trophies, and triumphal arcs,
 Gardens and groves, presented to his eyes,
 Above the highth of mountains interpos'd
 By what strange parallax or optic skill 40
 Of vision, multiplied through air, or glass
 Of telescope, were curious to inquire
 And now the Tempter thus his silence broke
 'The city which thou seest no other deem
 Than great and glorious Rome, queen of the Earth, 45
 So far renown'd, and with the spoils enricht
 Of nations, there the Capitol thou seest,
 Above the rest lifting his stately head
 On the Tarpeian rock, her citadel
 Impregnable, and there mount Palatine 50
 The imperial palace, compass huge, and high
 The structure, skill of noblest architects,
 With gilded battlements conspicuous far,
 Turrets and terraces, and glittering spires
 Many a fair edifice besides, more like 55
 Houses of gods, (so well I have dispos'd
 My aery microscope) thou may'st behold
 Outside and inside both, pillars and roofs,
 Carv'd work, the hand of fam'd artificers
 In cedar, marble, ivory, or gold 60
 Thence to the gates cast round thine eye, and see
 What conflux issuing forth, or entering in,
 Prætors, pro-consuls to their provinces
 Hasting or on return, in robes of state,
 Lictors and rods, the ensigns of their power, 65
 Legions and cohorts, turns of horse and wings

Or embassies from regions far remote,
In various habits, on the Appian road,
Or on the Emilian, some from farthest south,
Syene, and where the shadow both way falls, 70
Meroe, Nilotic isle, and, more to west,
The realm of Bocchus to the Black-moor sea,
From the Asian kings, and Parthian among these,
From India and the golden Chersonese,
And utmost Indian isle Taprobane, 75
Dusk faces with white silken turbants wreath'd,
From Gallia, Gades, and the British west
Germans and Scythians, and Sarmatians north
Beyond Danubius to the Tauric pool
All nations now to Rome obedience pay, 80
To Rome's great emperor, whose wide domain,
In ample territory, wealth and power,
Civility of manners, arts, and arms,
And long renown, thou justly may'st prefer
Before the Parthian These two thrones except, 85
The rest are barbarous, and scarce worth the sight,
Shar'd among petty kings too far remov'd,
These having shown thee, I have shown thee all
The kingdoms of the world, and all their glory
This emperor hath no son, and now is old, 90
Old and lascivious, and from Rome retir'd
To Capreæ, an island small but strong,
On the Campanian shore, with purpose there
His horrid lusts in private to enjoy,
Committing to a wicked favourite 95
All public cares, and yet of him suspicious,
Hated of all, and hating, with what ease
Endu'd with regal virtues as thou art,
Appearing, and beginning noble deeds,
Might'st thou expel this monster from his throne 100
Now made a sty, and in his place ascending,
A victor people free from servile yoke!
And with my help thou may'st, to me the power
Is given, and by that right I give it thee.

Aim therefore at no less than all the world, 105
 Aim at the highest without the highest attain'd,
 Will be for thee no sitting, or not long
 On David's throne, be prophes'd what will'

To whom the Son of God unmov'd repli'd
 'Nor doth this grandeur and majestic show 110

Of luxury, though call'd magnificence,
 More than of arms before, allure mine eye,
 Much less my mind, though thou should'st add to tell
 Their sumptuous gluttonies, and gorgeous feasts
 On citron tables or Atlantic stone, 115

(For I have also heard, perhaps have read)
 Their wines of Setia, Cales, and Falerne,
 Chios and Crete, and how they quaff in gold,
 Crystal, and myrrhine cups emboss'd with gems 120

And studs of pearl to me should'st tell, who thirst
 And hunger still then embassies thou show'st
 From nations far and nigh what honour that?
 But tedious waste of time to sit and hear

So many hollow compliments and lies,
 Outlandish flatteries? Then proceed'st to talk 125

Of the emperor, how easily subdu'd,
 How gloriously I shall, thou say'st, expel

A brutish monster, what if I withal
 Expel a Devil who first made him such?
 Let his tormenter conscience find him out, 130

For him I was not sent nor yet to free
 That people victor once, now vile and base,

Deservedly made vassal, who once just,
 Frugal and mild, and temperate, conquer'd well,
 But govern ill the nations under yoke, 135

Peeling their provinces, exhausted all

By lust and rapine, first ambitious grown

Of triumph, that insulting vanity,

Then cruel, by their sports to blood mur'd

Of fighting beasts, and men to beasts expos'd,

Luxurious by their wealth, and greedier still,

And from the daily scene effeminate.

What wise and valiant man would seek to free
These, thus degenerate, by themselves enslav'd?
Or could of inward slaves make outward free? 145
Know therefore, when my season comes to sit
On David's throne, it shall be like a tree
Spreading and overshadowing all the Earth,
Or as a stone that shall to pieces dash
All monarchies besides throughout the world, 150
And of my kingdom there shall be no end
Means there shall be to this, but what the means
Is not for thee to know, nor me to tell'
To whom the Tempter impudent repli'd
'I see all offers made by me how slight 155
Thou valu'st, because offer'd, and reject'st
Nothing will please the difficult and nice,
Or nothing more than still to contradict
On the other side know also thou, that I
On what I offer set as high esteem, 160
Nor what I part with mean to give for naught,
All these which in a moment thou behold'st,
The kingdoms of the world, to thee I give,
For giv'n to me, I give to whom I please,
No trifle, yet with this reserve, not else, 165
On this condition, if thou wilt fall down,
And worship me as thy superior Lord,
Easily done, and hold them all of me,
For what can less so great a gift deserve'
Whom thus our Saviour answer'd with disdain 170
'I never lik'd thy talk, thy offers less,
Now both abhor, since thou hast dar'd to utter
The abominable terms, impious condition
But I endure the time, till which expir'd
Thou hast permission on me It is written, 175
The first of all commandments, "Thou shalt worship
The Lord thy God, and only him shalt serve,"
And dar'st thou to the Son of God propound
To worship thee accurst? now more accurs'
For this attempt bolder than that on Eve, 180

And more blasphemous, which expect to rue
 The kingdoms of the world to thee were giv'n?
 Permitted rather, and by thee usurp't,
 Other donation none thou canst produce
 If given, by whom but by the King of kings, 185
 God over all supreme? If giv'n to thee,
 By thee how fairly is the Giver now
 Repaid! But gratitude in thee is lost
 Long since Wert thou so void of fear or shame,
 As offer them to me the Son of God? 190
 To me my own, on such abhorred pact,
 That I fall down and worship thee as God?
 Get thee behind me, plain thou now appear'st
 That Evil one, Satan for ever damn'd'

To whom the Fiend, with fear abasht, reph'd 195
 'Be not so sore offended, Son of God,
 (Though sons of God both angels are and men)
 If I to try whether in higher sort
 Than these thou bear'st that title, have propos'd
 What both from men and angels I receive, , 200
 Tetrarchs of ~~fire~~, air, flood, and on the earth,
 Nations beside from all the quarter'd winds,
 God of this world invok't, and world beneath,
 Who then thou art, whose coming is foretold
 To me most fatal, me it most concerns, 205
 The trial hath indamag'd thee no way,
 Rather more honour left and more esteem,
 Me nought advantag'd, missing what I aim'd
 Therefore let pass, as they are transitory,
 The kingdoms of this world, I shall no more 210
 Advise thee, gain them as thou canst, or not
 And thou thyself seem'st otherwise inclin'd
 Than to a worldly crown, addicted more
 To contemplation and profound dispute,
 As by that early action may be judg'd, 215
 When slipping from thy mother's eye, thou went'st
 Alone into the temple, there wast found
 Among the ~~grave~~st Rabbies, disputant

On points and questions fitting Moses' chair,
 Teaching, not taught The childhood shews the man, 220
 As morning shews the day be famous then
 By wisdom, as thy empire must extend,
 So let extend thy mind o'er all the world
 In knowledge, all things in it comprehend
 All knowledge is not coucht in Moses' law, 225
 The Pentateuch, or what the Prophets wrote,
 The Gentiles also know, and write, and teach
 To admiration, led by Nature's light,
 And with the Gentiles much thou must converse,
 Ruling them by persuasion, as thou mean'st, 230
 Without their learning how wilt thou with them,
 Or they with thee hold conversation meet?
 How wilt thou reason with them, how refute
 Their idolisms, traditions, paradoxes?
 Error by his own arms is best evinc't 235
 Look once more, ere we leave this specular mount,
 Westward, much nearer by southwest, behold;
 Where on the Ægean shore a city stands
 Built nobly, pure the air, and light the soil
 Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts 240
 And eloquence, native to famous wits
 Or hospitable, in her sweet recess,
 City or suburban, studious walks and shades
 See there the olive grove of Academe,
 Plato's retirement, where the Attic bird 245
 Trills her thick-warbl'd notes the summer long,
 There flowery hill Hymettus, with the sound
 Of bees' industrious murmur, oft invites
 To studious musing, there Ilissus rolls
 His whispering stream within the walls then view 250
 The schools of ancient sages, his who bred
 Great Alexander to subdue the world,
 Lyceum there, and painted Stoa next.
 There shalt thou hear and learn the secret power
 Of harmony, in tones and numbers hit 255
 By voice or hand, and various-measur'd verse,

Æolian charms and Dorian lyric odes,
 And his, who gave them breath, but higher sung
 Blind Melesigenes thence Homer call'd,
 Whose poem Phœbus challeng'd for his own 260
 Thence what the lofty grave tragedians taught
 In chorus or Iambic, teachers best
 Of moral prudence, with delight receiv'd
 In brief sententious precepts, while they treat
 Of fate, and chance, and change in human life, 265
 High actions and high passions best describing
 Thence to the famous orators repair,
 Those ancient, whose resistless eloquence
 Wielded at will that fierce democracy,
 Shook the Arsenal and fulmin'd over Greece 270
 To Macedon, and Artaxerxes' throne
 To sage Philosophy next lend thine ear,
 From Heaven descended to the low-roof't house
 Of Socrates, see there his tenement,
 Whom well inspir'd the oracle pronounc'd 275
 Wisest of men, from whose mouth issu'd forth
 Mellifluous streams, that water'd all the schools
 Of Academics old and new, with those
 Surnam'd Peripatetics, and the sect
 Epicurean, and the Stoic severe, 280
 These here revolve, or, as thou lik'st, at home,
 Till time mature thee to a kingdom's weight,
 These rules will render thee a king complete
 Within thyself, much more with empire join'd'
 To whom our Saviour sagely thus repli'd 285
 'Think not but that I know these things, or think
 I know them not, not therefore am I short
 Of knowing what I ought he who receives
 Light from above, from the fountain of light,
 No other doctrine needs, though granted true, 290
 But these are false, or little else but dreams,
 Conjectures, fancies, built on nothing firm
 The first and wisest of them all profess'd
 To know this only, that he nothing knew,

The next to fabling fell, and smooth conceits, 295
 A third sort doubted all things, though plain sense,
 Others in virtue plac'd felicity,
 But virtue join'd with riches and long life,
 In corporal pleasure he, and careless ease,
 The Stoic last in philosophic pride, 300
 By him call'd virtue, and his virtuous man,
 Wise, perfect in himself, and all possessing
 Equal to God, oft shames not to prefer,
 As fearing God nor man, contemning all
 Wealth, pleasure, pain, or torment, death and life, 305
 Which when he lists, he leaves, or boasts he can,
 For all his tedious talk is but vain boast,
 Or subtle shifts conviction to evade
 Alas, what can they teach, and not mislead!
 Ignorant of themselves, of God much more, 310
 And how the world began, and how Man fell
 Degraded by himself, on grace depending?
 Much of the soul they talk, but all awry,
 And in themselves seek virtue, and to themselves
 All glory arrogate, to God give none, 315
 Rather accuse him under usual names,
 Fortune and Fate, as one regardless quite
 Of mortal things Who therefore seeks in these
 True wisdom, finds her not, or by delusion
 Far worse, her false resemblance only meets, 320
 An empty cloud However, many books,
 Wise men have said, are wearisome, who reads
 Incessantly, and to his reading brings not
 A spirit and judgment equal or superior,
 (And what he brings what needs he elsewhere seek?) 325
 Uncertain and unsettled still remains,
 Deep verst in books and shallow in himself,
 Crude or intoxicate, collecting toys
 And trifles for choice matters, worth a sponge,
 As children gathering pebbles on the shore, 330
 Or if I would delight my private hours
 With music or with poem, where so soon

As in our native language can I find
 That solace? All our law and story strew'd
 With hymns, our psalms with artful terms inscrib'd, 335
 Our Hebrew songs and harps, in Babylon
 That pleas'd so well our victors' ear, declare
 That rather Greece from us these arts deriv'd,
 Ill imitated, while they loudest sing
 The vices of their deities, and their own, 340
 In fable, hymn, or song, so personating
 Their gods ridiculous, and themselves past shame
 Remove their swelling epithets thick laid
 As varnish on a harlot's cheek, the rest,
 Thin sown with aught of profit or delight, 345
 Will far be found unworthy to compare
 With Sion's songs, to all true tastes excelling,
 Where God is praised aright, and godlike men,
 The Holiest of Holies, and his saints,
 Such are from God inspir'd, not such from thee, 350
 Unless where moral virtue is express't
 By light of Nature not in all quite lost
 Their orators thou then extoll'st, as those
 The top of eloquence, statists indeed,
 And lovers of their country, as may seem, 355
 But herein to our prophets far beneath,
 As men divinely taught, and better teaching
 The solid rules of civil government,
 In their majestic unaffected style
 Than all the oratory of Greece and Rome 360
 In them is plainest taught, and easiest learnt,
 What makes a nation happy, and keeps it so,
 What ruins kingdoms, and lays cities flat,
 These only with our Law best form a king'
 So spake the Son of God, but Satan, now 365
 Quite at a loss, for all his darts were spent,
 Thus to our Saviour with stern brow repli'd
 'Since neither wealth nor honour, arms, nor arts,
 Kingdom nor empire please thee, nor aught

By me propos'd in life contemplative 370
 Or active, tended on by glory or fame,
 What dost thou in this world? The wilderness
 For thee is fittest place, I found thee there,
 And thither will return thee, yet remember
 What I foretel thee, soon thou shalt have cause 375
 To wish thou never hadst rejected thus
 Nicely or cautiously my offer'd aid,
 Which would have set thee in short time with ease
 On David's throne, or throne of all the world,
 Now at full age, fulness of time, thy season, 380
 When prophecies of thee are best fulfill'd
 Now contrary, if I read aught in Heaven,
 Or Heav'n write aught of Fate, by what the stars
 Voluminous, or single characters,
 In their conjunction met, give me to spell, 385
 Sorrows, and labours, opposition, hate
 Attend thee, scorns, reproaches, injuries,
 Violence and stripes, and lastly cruel death
 A kingdom they portend thee, but what kingdom
 Real or allegoric, I discern not, 390
 Nor when, eternal sure, as without end,
 Without beginning, for no date prefix'd
 Directs me in the starry rubric-set'
 So saying he took (for still he knew his power
 Not yet expir'd) and to the wilderness 395
 Brought back the Son of God, and left him there,
 Feigning to disappear Darkness now rose,
 As day-light sunk, and brought in lowring Night,
 Her shadowy offspring, unsubstantial both,
 Privation mere of light and absent day 400
 Our Saviour meek, and with untroubld mind
 After his aery jaunt, though hurried sore,
 Hungry and cold betook him to his rest,
 Wherever, under some concourse of shades
 Whose branching arms thick intertwin'd might shield
 From dews and damps of night his shelter'd head,

But shelter'd slept in vain for at his head
The Tempter watch'd, and soon with ugly dreams
Disturb'd his sleep, and either tropic now
'Gan thunder, and both ends of Heav'n the clouds 410
From many a horrid rift abortive pour'd
Fierce rain with lightning mix't, water with fire
In ruin reconcil'd nor slept the winds
Within their stony caves, but rush'd abroad
From the four hinges of the world, and fell 415
On the vex'd wilderness, whose tallest pines,
Though rooted deep as high, and sturdiest oaks
Bow'd their stiff necks, loaden with stormy blasts,
Or torn up sheer Ill wast thou shrouded then,
O patient Son of God, yet only stood'st 420
Unshaken, nor yet staid the terror there
Infernal ghosts, and hellish furies, round
Environ'd thee, some howl'd, some yell'd, some shriek'd,
Some bent at thee their fiery darts, while thou
Sat'st unappall'd in calm and sinless peace 425
Thus pass'd the night so foul, till morning fair
Came forth with pilgrim steps in amice gray,
Who with her radiant finger still'd the roar
Of thunder, chas'd the clouds, and laid the winds,
And grisly spectres, which the Fiend had rais'd 430
To tempt the Son of God with terrors dire
But now the sun with more effectual beams
Had cheer'd the face of Earth, and dri'd the wet
From drooping plant, or dropping tree, the birds
Who all things now beheld more fresh and green, 435
After a night of storm so ruinous,
Clear'd up their choicest notes in bush and spray
To gratulate the sweet return of morn
Nor yet amidst this joy and brightest morn
Was absent, after all his mischief done, 440
The Prince of Darkness, glad would also seem
Of this fair change, and to our Saviour came,
Yet with no new device, they all were spent,

Rather by this his last affront resolv'd,
 Desperate of better course, to vent his rage 445
 And mad despite to be so oft repell'd
 Him walking on a sunny hill he found,
 Back'd on the north and west by a thick wood,
 Out of the wood he starts in wonted shape,
 And in a careless mood thus to him said 450
 'Fair morning yet betides thee, Son of God,
 After a dismal night I heard the wrack
 As earth and sky would mingle, but myself
 Was distant, and these flaws, though mortals fear them
 As dangerous to the pillar'd frame of Heaven, 455
 Or to the earth's dark basis underneath,
 Are to the main as inconsiderable,
 And harmless, if not wholesome, as a sneeze
 To man's less universe, and soon are gone,
 Yet as being oft-times noxious where they light 460
 On man, beast, plant, wasteful and turbulent,
 Like turbulences in the affairs of men,
 Over whose heads they roar, and seem to point,
 They oft foreshew and threaten ill
 This tempest at this desert most was bent, 465
 Of men at thee, for only thou here dwell'st
 Did I not tell thee, if thou didst reject
 The perfect season offer'd with my aid
 To win thy destin'd seat, but wilt prolong
 All to the push of Fate, pursue thy way 470
 Of gaining David's throne no man knows when,
 For both the when and how is nowhere told,
 Thou shalt be what thou art ordain'd, no doubt,
 For angels have proclaim'd it, but concealing
 The time and means? each act is rightest done, 475
 Not when it must, but when it may be best
 If thou observe not this, be sure to find,
 What I foretold thee, many a hard assay
 Of dangers, and adversities, and pains,
 Ere thou of Israel's sceptre get fast hold, 480

Whereof this ominous night that clos'd thee round,
 So many terrors, voices, prodigies
 May warn thee, as a sure foregoing sign'

So talk'd he, while the Son of God went on
 And staid not, but in brief him answer'd thus 485

'Me worse than wet thou find'st not, other harm
 Those terrors which thou speak'st of did me none,
 I never fear'd they could, though noising loud
 And threat'ning nigh what they can do as signs
 Betok'ning or ill boding, I contemn 490

As false portents, not sent from God, but thee,
 Who knowing I shall reign past thy preventing,
 Obtrud'st thy offer'd aid, that I accepting
 At least might seem to hold all power of thee,
 Ambitious spirit, and wouldst be thought my God, 495
 And storm'st refus'd, thinking to terrify
 Me to thy will, desist, thou art discern'd,
 And toil'st in vain, nor me in vain molest'

To whom the Fiend now swoln with rage repli'd
 'Then hear, O Son of David, Virgin-born, 500
 For Son of God to me is yet in doubt,
 Of the Messiah I had heard foretold

By all the prophets, of thy birth at length,
 Announc't by Gabriel with the first I knew,
 And of the angelic song in Bethlehem field, 505

On thy birth-night, that sung thee Saviour born
 From that time seldom have I ceas'd to eye
 Thy infancy, thy childhood, and thy youth,
 Thy manhood last, though yet 'in private bred,
 Till at the ford of Jordan, whither ~~all~~ 510

Flock'd to the Baptist, I among the rest,
 Though not to be baptiz'd, by voice from Heav'n
 Heard thee pronounc'd the Son of God belov'd
 Thenceforth I thought thee worth my nearer view
 And narrower scrutiny, that I might learn 515

In what degree or meaning thou art call'd
 The Son of God, which bears no single sense

The Son of God I also am, or was,
 And if I was, I am, relation stands,
 All men are sons of God, yet thee I thought 520
 In some respect far higher so declar'd
 Therefore I watch'd thy footsteps from that hour,
 And follow'd thee still on to this waste wild,
 Where by all best conjectures I collect
 Thou art to be my fatal enemy 525
 Good reason then, if I beforehand seek
 To understand my adversary, who
 And what he is, his wisdom, power, intent,
 By parle or composition, truce or league
 To win him, or win from him what I can 530
 And opportunity I here have had
 To try thee, sift thee, and confess have found thee
 Proof against all temptation as a rock
 Of adamant, and as a centre, firm,
 To the utmost of mere man both wise and good, 535
 Not more, for honours, riches, kingdoms, glory,
 Have been before contemn'd, and may again
 Therefore to know what more thou art than man,
 Worth naming Son of God by voice from Heav'n,
 Another method I must now begin ' 540
 So saying he caught him up, and without wing
 Of hippogrif bore through the air sublime,
 Over the wilderness and o'er the plain,
 Till underneath them fair Jerusalem,
 The holy city, lifted high her towers, 545
 And higher yet the glorious Temple rear'd
 Her pile, far off appearing like a mount
 Of alabaster, topt with golden spires
 There on the highest pinnacle he set
 The Son of God, and added thus in scorn 550
 'There stand, if thou wilt stand, to stand upright
 Will ask thee skill, I to thy Father's house
 Have brought thee, and highest plac't highest is best.
 Now show thy progeny, if not to stand,

Cast thyself down, safely if Son of God 555
 For it is written, "He will give command
 Concerning thee to his angels, in their hands
 They shall up lift thee, lest at any time
 Thou chance to dash thy foot against a stone"
 To whom thus Jesus 'Also it is written 560
 "Tempt not the Lord thy God" He said, and stood
 But Satan smitten with amazement fell
 As when Earth's son, Antæus (to compare
 Small things with greatest) in Irassa strove
 With Jove's Alcides, and oft foil'd still rose, 565
 Receiving from his mother Earth new strength,
 Fresh from his fall, and fiercer grapple join'd,
 Thrott'l'd at length in th' air, expir'd and fell,
 So after many a foil the Tempter proud,
 Renewing fresh assaults, amidst his pride, 570
 Fell whence he stood to see his victor fall
 And as that Theban monster, that propos'd,
 Her middle, and him who solv'd it not, devour'd,
 That once found out and solv'd, for grief and spite
 Cast herself headlong from th' Ismenian steep, 575
 So struck with dread and anguish fell the Fiend,
 And to his crew, that sat consulting, brought
 Joyless triumphals of his hop't success,
 Ruin, and desperation, and dismay,
 Who durst so proudly tempt the Son of God 580
 So Satan fell and straight a fiery globe
 Of angels on full sail of wing flew nigh,
 Who on their plummy vans receiv'd him soft
 From his uneasy station, and upbore,
 As on a floating couch through the blithe air, 585
 Then in a flow'ry valley set him down
 On a green bank, and set before him spread
 A table of celestial food, divine,
 Ambrosial, fruits fetch'd from the Tree of Life,
 And from the Fount of Life ambrosial drink, 590
 That soon refresh'd him wearied, and repair'd

What hunger, if aught hunger had impair'd,
 Or thirst, and as he fed, angelic quires
 Sung heavenly anthems of his victory
 Over temptation, and the Tempter proud 595
 ' True Image of the Father, whether thron'd
 In the bosom of bliss, and light of light
 Conceiving, or remote from Heav'n, enshrin'd
 In fleshly tabernacle, and human form,
 Wandring the wilderness, whatever place, 600
 Habit, or state, or motion, still expressing
 The Son of God, with godlike force endu'd
 Against th' Attempter of thy Father's throne,
 And Thief of Paradise' him long of old
 Thou didst debel, and down from Heav'n cast 605
 With all his army, now thou hast aveng'd
 Supplanted Adam, and by vanquishing
 Temptation, hast regain'd lost Paradise,
 And frustrated the conquest fraudulent
 He never more henceforth will dare set foot 610
 In Paradise to tempt, his snares are broke,
 For though that seat of earthly bliss be fail'd,
 A fairer Paradise is founded now
 For Adam and his chosen sons, whom thou,
 A Saviour art come down to reinstall, 615
 Where they shall dwell secure, when time shall be,
 Of Tempter and temptation without fear
 But thou, infernal Serpent, shalt not long
 Rule in the clouds, like an autumnal star
 Or lightning thou shalt fall from Heav'n, trod down 620
 Under his feet for proof, ere this thou feel'st
 Thy wound, yet not thy last and deadliest wound
 By this repulse receiv'd, and hold'st in Hell
 No triumph, in all her gates Abaddon rues
 Thy bold attempt, hereafter learn with awe 625
 To dread the Son of God he all unarm'd
 Shall chase thee with the terror of his voice
 From thy demoniac holds, possession foul,

Thee and thy legions, yelling they shall fly,
And beg to hide them in a herd of swine,
Lest he command them down into the deep, 630
Bound, and to torment sent before their time
Hail Son of the Most High, heir of both worlds,
Queller of Satan, on thy glorious work
Now enter, and begin to save mankind' 635

Thus they the Son of God our Saviour meek
Sung Victor, and from heavenly feast refresh't,
Brought on his way with joy, he unobserv'd
Home to his mother's house private return'd

SAMSON AGONISTES

THE ARGUMENT

SAMSON made captive, blind, and now in the prison of Gaza, there to labour as in a common workhouse, on a festival day, in the general cessation from labour, comes forth into the open air, to a place high, somewhat retired, there to sit awhile and bemoan his condition. Where he happens at length to be visited by certain friends and equals of his tribe, which make the Chorus, who seek to comfort him what they can, then by his old father Manoa, who endeavours the like, and withal tells him his purpose to procure his liberty by ransom, lastly, that this feast was proclaimed by the Philistins as a day of thanksgiving for their deliverance from the hands of Samson, which yet more troubles him. Manoa then departs to prosecute his endeavour with the Philistian lords for Samson's redemption, who in the mean time is visited by other persons, and lastly by a public officer to require his coming to the feast before the lords and people, to play or shew his strength in their presence, he at first refuses, dismissing the public officer with absolute denial to come, at length, persuaded inwardly that this was from God, he yields to go along with him, who now came the second time with great threatenings to fetch him. the Chorus yet remaining on the place, Manoa returns full of joyful hope, to procure ere long his son's deliverance. in the midst of which discourse an Ebrew comes in haste, confusedly at first and afterwards more distinctly relating the catastrophe, what Samson had done to the Philistins, and by accident to himself, wherewith the tragedy ends.

OF THAT SORT OF DRAMATIC POEM

WHICH IS CALLED

TRAGEDY

Τραγωδία μιμησις πράξεως σπουδαιᾶς δι' ελεον και φόβου περαινουσα την
των τοιουτων καθηματων καθαρισιν Aristotle, Poet vi

Trægoedia est imitatio actionis seriæ per misericordiam et metum perficiens talium
affectuum lustrationem.

TRAGEDY, as it was antiently composed, hath been ever held the gravest, moralest, and most profitable of all other poems therefore said by Aristotle to be of power by raising pity and fear, or terror, to purge the mind of those and such like passions, that is, to temper and reduce them to just measure with a kind of delight, stirred up by reading or seeing those passions well imitated Nor is Nature wanting in her own effects to make good his assertion, for so in physic things of melancholy hue and quality are used against melancholy, sour against sour, salt to remove salt humours Hence philosophers and other gravest writers, as Cicero, Plutarch, and others, frequently cite out of tragic poets, both to adorn and illustrate their discourse The apostle Paul himself thought it not unworthy to insert a verse of Euripides into the text of Holy Scripture, 1 Cor xv 33, and Paræus commenting on the Revelation, divides the whole book as a tragedy, into acts distinguished each by a chorus of heavenly harpings and song between Heretofore men in highest dignity have laboured not a little to be thought able to compose a tragedy Of that honour Dionysius the elder was no less ambitious, than before of his attaining to the tyranny Augustus Cæsar also had begun his Ajax, but unable to please his own judgment with what he had begun, left it unfinished Seneca the philosopher is by some thought the author of those tragedies (at least the best of them) that go under that name Gregory Nazianzen, a Father of the Church, thought it not unbeseeming the sanctity of his person

to write a tragedy, which he¹ entitled 'Christ Suffering'. This is mentioned to vindicate tragedy from the small esteem, or rather infamy, which in the account of many it undergoes at this day with other common interludes, happening through the poet's error of intermixing comic stuff with tragic sadness and gravity, or introducing trivial and vulgar persons, which by all judicious hath been counted absurd, and brought in without discretion, corruptly to gratify the people. And though antient tragedy use no prologue, yet using sometimes, in case of self-defence, or explanation, that which Martial calls an epistle, in behalf of this tragedy coming forth after the antient manner, much different from what among us passes for best, thus much beforehand may be epistled, that Chorus is here introduced after the Greek manner, not antient only but modern, and still in use among the Italians. In the modelling therefore of this poem, with good reason, the antients and Italians are rather followed, as of much more authority and fame. The measure of verse used in the Chorus is of all sorts, called by the Greeks Monostrophic, or rather Apolelymenon without regard had to Strophe, Antistrophe or Epode, which were a kind of stanzas framed only for the music, then used with the Chorus that sung, not essential to the poem, and therefore not material, or being divided into stanzas or pauses, they may be called *Alloestrophæ*. Division into act and scene referring chiefly to the stage (to which this work never was intended) is here omitted.

It suffices if the whole drama be found not produced beyond the fifth act. Of the style and uniformity, and that commonly called the plot, whether intricate or explicit, which is nothing indeed but such economy or disposition of the fable as may stand best with verisimilitude and decorum, they only will best judge who are not unacquainted with *Æschylus*, *Sophocles*, and *Euripides*, the three tragic poets unequalled yet by any, and the best rule to all who endeavour to write tragedy. The circumscription of time wherein the whole drama begins and ends, is according to antient rule, and best example, within the space of twenty-four hours.

SAMSON AGONISTES

THE PERSONS

SAMSON
MANOAH *the Father of Samson*
DALILA *his Wife*
HARAPHA *of Gath*
Public Officer
Messenger
Chorus of Danites

The Scene before the Prison in Gaza

SAMSON

A LITTLE onward lend thy guiding hand
To these dark steps, a little further on,
For yonder bank hath choice of sun or shade
There I am wont to sit, when any chance
Relieves me from my task of servile toil, 5
Daily in the common prison else enjoin'd me,
Where I, a prisoner chain'd, scarce freely draw
The air imprison'd also, close and damp,
Unwholesome draught but here I feel amends,
The breath of Heav'n fresh blowing, pure and sweet, 10
With day-spring born, here leave me to respire
This day a solemn feast the people hold
To Dagon their sea idol, and forbid
Laborious works, unwillingly this rest
Their superstition yields me, hence with leave 15
Retiring from the popular noise, I seek
This unfrequented place to find some ease,
Ease to the body some, none to the mind
From restless thoughts, that like a deadly swarm
Of hornets arm'd, no sooner found alone, 20
But rush upon me thronging, and present
Times past, what once I was, and what am now

O wherefore was my birth from Heaven foretold
 Twice by an angel, who at last in sight
 Of both my parents, all in flames ascended 25
 From off the altar, where an offering burn'd,
 As in a fiery column charioting
 His god-like presence, and from some great act
 Or benefit reveal'd to Abraham's race?
 Why was my breeding order'd and prescrib'd 30
 As of a person separate to God,
 Design'd for great exploits, if I must die
 Betray'd, captiv'd, and both my eyes put out,
 Made of my enemies the scorn and gaze,
 To grind in brazen fetters under task 35
 With this Heav'n-gifted strength? O glorious strength
 Put to the labour of a beast, debas'd
 Lower than bond-slave! Promise was that I
 Should Israel from Philistian yoke deliver,
 Ask for this great deliverer now, and find him 40
 Eyeless in Gaza at the mill with slaves,
 Himself in bonds under Philistian yoke,
 Yet stay, let me not rashly call in doubt
 Divine prediction, what if all foretold
 Had been fulfill'd but through mine own default, 45
 Whom have I to complain of but myself?
 Who this high gift of strength committed to me,
 In what part lodg'd, how easily bereft me,
 Under the seal of silence could not keep,
 But weakly to a woman must reveal it, 50
 O'ercome with importunity and tears
 O impotence of mind, in body strong!
 But what is strength, without a double share
 Of wisdom? vast, unwieldy, burdensome,
 Proudly secure, yet liable to fall 55
 By weakest subtleties, not made to rule,
 But to subserve where wisdom bears command
 God when he gave me strength, to show withal
 How slight the gift was, hung it in my hair
 But peace, I must not quarrel with the will 60

Of highes dispensation, which herem
 Haply had ends above my reach to know -
 Suffices that to me strength is my bane,
 And proves the source of all my miseries,
 So many, and so huge, that each apart 65
 Would ask a life to wail, but chief of all,
 O loss of sight, of thee I most complain !
 Blind among enemies, O worse than chains,
 Dungeon, or beggary, or decrepit age !
 Light the prime work of God to me is extinct, 70
 And all her various objects of delight
 Annull'd, which might in part my grief have eas'd,
 Inferior to the vilest now become
 Of man or worm, the vilest here excel me,
 They creep, yet see, I dark in light, expos'd 75
 To daily fraud, contempt, abuse and wrong,
 Within doors, or without, still as a fool,
 In power of others, never in my own,
 Scarce half I seem to live, dead more than half
 O dark, dark, dark, amid the blaze of noon, 80
 Irrecoverably dark, total eclipse
 Without all hope of day !
 O first created beam, and thou great Word,
 'Let there be light,' and light was over all,
 Why am I thus bereav'd thy prime decree ? 85
 The sun to me is dark
 And silent as the moon,
 When she deserts the night
 Hid in her vacant interlunar cave
 Since light so necessary is to life, 90
 And almost life itself, if it be true
 That light is in the soul,
 She all in every part ; why was the sight
 To such a tender ball as th' eye confin'd,
 So obvious and so easy to be quench't ?
 And not, as feeling, through all parts diffus'd,
 That she might look at will through every pore ?
 Then had I not been thus exil'd from light,

As in the land of darkness, yet in light
 To live a life half dead, a living death, 100
 And buried, but (O yet more miserable !)
 Myself my sepulchre, a moving grave
 Buried, yet not exempt
 By privilege of death and burial
 From worst of other evils, pains and wrongs, 105
 But made hereby obnoxious more
 To all the miseries of life,
 Life in captivity
 Among inhuman foes
 But who are these ? for with joint pace I hear 110
 The tread of many feet steering this way,
 Perhaps my enemies who come to stare
 At my affliction, and perhaps to insult,
 Their daily practice to afflict me more

CHORUS

Chorus This, this is he, softly awhile, 115
 Let us not break in upon him,
 O change beyond report, thought, or belief !
 See how he lies at random, carelessly diffus'd,
 With languish't head unpropt,
 As one past hope, abandon'd, 120
 And by himself given over,
 In slavish habit, ill-fitted weeds
 O'er-worn and soil'd,
 Or do my eyes misrepresent ? Can this be he,
 That heroic, that renown'd, 125
 Irresistible Samson ? whom unarm'd
 No strength of man, or fiercest wild beast could withstand
 Who tore the lion, as the lion tears the kid,
 Ran on embattl'd armies clad in iron,
 And weaponless himself, 130
 Made arms ridiculous, useless the forgery
 Of brazen shield and spear, the hammer'd cuirass,
 Chalybean temper'd steel, and frock of mail
 Adamantean proof,

But safest he who stood aloof, 135
 When insupportably his foot advanc't,
 In scorn of their proud arms and warlike tools,
 Spurn'd them to death by troops The bold Ascalonite
 Fled from his lion ramp, old warriors turn'd
 Their plated backs under his heel, 140
 Or grovelling soil'd their crested helmets in the dust
 Then with what trivial weapon came to hand,
 The jaw of a dead ass, his sword of bone,
 A thousand fore-skins fell, the flower of Palestine,
 In Ramath-lechi famous to this day 145
 Then by main force pull'd up, and on his shoulders bore
 The gates of Azza, post and massy bar,
 Up to the hill by Hebron, seat of giants old,
 No journey of a sabbath-day, and loaded so,
 Like whom the Gentiles feign to bear up Heav'n 150
 Which shall I first bewail,
 Thy bondage or lost sight,
 Prison, within prison
 Inseparably dark?
 Thou art become (O worst imprisonment!) 155
 The dungeon of thyself, thy soul
 (Which men enjoying sight oft without cause complain)
 Imprison'd now indeed,
 In real darkness of the body dwells,
 Shut up from outward light 160
 To incorporate with gloomy night,
 For inward light, alas!
 Puts forth no visual beam
 O mirror of our fickle state,
 Since ~~then~~ on earth unparallel'd! 165
 The ~~later~~ thy example stands,
 By how much from the top of wondrous glory,
 Strongest of mortal men,
 To lowest pitch of abject fortune thou art fall'n,
 For him I reckon not in high estate
 Whom long descent of birth
 Or the sphere of fortune raises,

But thee whose strength, while virtue was her mate,
Might have subdu'd the Earth,
Universally crown'd with highest praises 175

Samson I hear the sound of words, their sense the air
Dissolves unjointed ere it reach my ear

Ghorus He speaks, let us draw nigh Matchless in might,
The glory late of Israel, now the grief,
We come thy friends and neighbours not unknown, 180
From Eshtaol and Zora's fruitful vale,
To visit or bewail thee, or if better,
Counsel or consolation we may bring,
Salve to thy sores, apt words have power to swage
The tumours of a troubl'd mind, 185
And are as balm to fester'd wounds

Samson Your coming, friends, revives me, for I learn
Now of my own experience, not by talk,
How counterfeit a coin they are who friends
Bear in their superscription, (of the most 190
I would be understood) in prosperous days
They swarm, but in adverse withdraw their head
Not to be found, though sought Ye see, O friends,
How many evils have enclos'd me round,
Yet that which was the worst now least afflicts me, 195
Blindness, for had I sight, confus'd with shame,
How could I once look up, or heave the head?
Who like a foolish pilot have shipwreck't
My vessel trusted to me from above,
Gloriously rigg'd, and for a word, a tear, 200
Fool! have divulg'd the secret gift of God
To a deceitful woman tell me, friends,
Am I not sung, and proverb'd for a fool
In every street? do they not say, how well
Are come upon him his deserts? yet why? 205
Immeasurable strength they might behold
In me, of wisdom nothing more than mean,
This with the other should, at least, have pair'd,
These two proportion'd ill drove me transverse.

Chorus Tax not divine disposal, wisest men
 Have err'd, and by bad women been deceiv'd,
 And shall again, pretend they ne'er so wise
 Deject not then so overmuch thyself,
 Who hast of sorrow thy full load besides
 Yet truth to say, I oft have heard men wonder
 Why thou should'st wed Philistian women rather
 Than of thine own tribe fairer, or as fair,
 At least of thy own nation, and as noble

Samson The first I saw at Timna, and she pleas'd
 Me, not my parents that I sought to wed
 The daughter of an infidel they knew not
 That what I motion'd was of God, I knew
 From intimate impulse, and therefore urg'd
 The marriage on that by occasion hence
 I might begin Israel's deliverance,
 The work to which I was divinely call'd
 She proving false, the next I took to wife,
 (O that I never had' fond wish too late)
 Was in the vale of Sorec, Dalila,
 That specious monster, my accomplit snare
 I thought it lawful from my former act,
 And the same end, still watching to oppress
 Israel's oppressors of what now I suffer
 She was not the prime cause, but I myself,
 Who vanquisht with a peal of words (O weakness!)
 Gave up my fort of silence to a woman

Chorus In seeking just occasion to provoke
 The Philistine, thy country's enemy,
 Thou never wast remiss, I bear thee witness
 Yet Israel still serves with all his sons

Samson That fault I take not on me, but transfer
 On Israel's governors, and heads of tribes,
 Who seeing those great acts which God had done
 Singly by me against their conquerors,
 Acknowledg'd not, or not at all consider'd
 Deliverance offer'd I on th' other side

Us'd no ambition to commend my deeds,
 The deeds themselves, though mute, spoke loud the doer,
 But they persisted deaf, and would not seem
 To count them things worth notice, till at length 250
 Their lords the Philistines with gather'd powers
 Enter'd Judea seeking me, who then
 Safe to the rock of Etham was retir'd,
 Not flying, but fore-casting in what place
 To set upon them, what advantag'd best, 255
 Meanwhile the men of Judah, to prevent
 The harass of their land, beset me round,
 I willingly on some conditions came
 Into their hands, and they as gladly yield me
 To the uncircumcis'd a welcome prey, 260
 Bound with two cords, but cords to me were threads
 Toucht with the flame on their whole host I flew
 Unarm'd, and with a trivial weapon fell'd
 Their choicest youth, they only liv'd who fled
 Had Judah that day join'd, or one whole tribe, 265
 They had by this possess'd the towers of Gath,
 And lorded over them whom they now serve
 But what more oft in nations grown corrupt,
 And by their vices brought to servitude,
 Than to love bondage more than liberty, 270
 Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty,
 And to despise, or envy, or suspect
 Whom God hath of his special favour rais'd
 As their deliverer, if he aught begin,
 How frequent to desert him, and at last 275
 To heap ingratitude on worthiest deeds?

Chorus Thy words to my remembrance bring
 How Succoth and the fort of Penuel
 Their great deliverer contemn'd,
 The matchless Gideon in pursuit 280
 Of Madian and her vanquisht kings
 And how ingrateful Ephraim
 Had dealt with Jephtha, who by argument,
 Not worse than by his shield and spear,

Defended Israel from the Ammonite,
 Had not his prowess quell'd their pride
 In that sore battle when so many dr'd,
 Without reprieve adjudg'd to death,
 For want of well pronouncing Shibboleth

Samson Of such examples add me to the roll,
 Me easily indeed mine may neglect,
 But God's propos'd deliverance not so

Chorus Just are the ways of God,
 And justifiable to men,
 Unless there be who think not God at all
 If any be, they walk obscure,
 For of such doctrine never was there school,
 But the heart of the fool,
 And no man therein doctor but himself

Yet more there be who doubt his ways not just,
 As to his own edicts, found contradicting,
 Then give the reins to wandring thought,
 Regardless of his glory's diminution,
 Till, by their own perplexities involv'd,
 They ravel more, still less resolv'd,
 But never find self-satisfying solution

As if they would confine th' Intermunable,
 And tie him to his own prescript,
 Who made our laws to bind us, not himself,
 And hath full right to exempt
 Whom so it pleases him by choice
 From national obstruction, without taint
 Of sin, or legal debt,
 For with his own laws he can best dispense

He would not else who never wanted means,
 Nor in respect of the enemy just cause,
 To set his people free,
 Have prompted this heroic Nazarite,
 Against his vow of strictest purity,
 To seek in marriage that fallacious bride,
 Unclean, unchaste

Down Reason then, at least vain reasonings down,
 Though Reason here aver
 That moral verdict quits her of unclean
 Unchaste was subsequent, her stain not his. 325

But see, here comes thy reverend sire
 With careful step, locks white as down,
 Old Manoa advise
 Forthwith how thou ought'st to receive him
Samson Ay me, another inward grief awak't, 330
 With mention of that name renews th' assault

MANOA

Manoa Brethren and men of Dan, for such ye seem,
 Though in this uncouth place, if old respect,
 As I suppose, towards your once gloried friend,
 My son now captive, hither hath inform'd 335
 Your younger feet, while mine cast back with age
 Came lagging after, say if he be here

Chorus As signal now in low dejected state,
 As erst in highest, behold him where he lies

Manoa O miserable change! is this the man, 340
 That invincible Samson, far renown'd,
 The dread of Israel's foes, who with a strength
 Equivalent to angels walk'd their streets,
 None offering fight, who single combatant
 Duell'd their armies rankt in proud array, 345
 Himself an army, now unequal match
 To save himself against a coward arm'd
 At one spear's length O ever-failing trust
 In mortal strength! and oh what not in man
 Decervable and vain! nay what thing good 350
 Pray'd for, but often proves our woe, our bane?
 I pray'd for children, and thought barrenness
 In wedlock a reproach, I gain'd a son,
 And such a son as all men hail'd me happy,
 Who would be now a father in my stead? 355
 O wherefore did God grant me my request,
 And as a blessing with such pomp adorn'd?

Why are his gifts desirable, to tempt
Our earnest prayers, then giv'n with solemn hand
As graces, draw a scorpion's tail behind? 360
For this did the angel twice descend? for this
Ordain'd thy nurture holy, as of a plant
Select, and sacred, glorious for a while,
The miracle of men then in an hour
Ensnar'd, assaulted, overcome, led bound, 365
Thy foes' derision, captive, poor, and blind
Into a dungeon thrust, to work with slaves?
Alas, methinks whom God hath chosen once
To worthiest deeds, if he through frailty err,
He should not so o'erwhelm, and as a thrall, 370
Subject him to so foul indignities,
Be it but for honour's sake of former deeds

Samson Appoint not heavenly disposition, father,
Nothing of all these evils hath befall'n me
But justly, I myself have brought them on, 375
Sole author I, sole cause if aught seem vile,
As vile hath been my folly, who have profan'd
The mystery of God given me under pledge
Of vow, and have betray'd it to a woman,
A Canaanite, my faithless enemy 380
This well I knew, nor was at all surpris'd,
But warn'd by oft experience did not she
Of Timna first betray me, and reveal
The secret wrested from me in her highth
Of nuptial love profest, carrying it straight 385
To them who had corrupted her, my spies,
And rivals? In this other was there found
More faith? who also in her prime of love,
Spousal embraces, vitiated with gold,
Though offer'd only, by the scent conceiv'd 390
Her spurious first-born, Treason against me
Thrice she assay'd with flattering prayers and sighs,
And amorous reproaches, to win from me
My capital secret, in what part my strength
Lay stor'd, in what part summ'd, that she might know, 395

Thrice I deluded her, and turn'd to sport
 Her importunity, each time perceiving
 How openly, and with what impudence
 She purpos'd to betray me, and (which was worse
 Than undissembl'd hate) with what contempt 400
 She sought to make me traitor to myself
 Yet the fourth time, when mustring all her wiles,
 With blandisht parlies, feminine assaults,
 Tongue-batteries, she surceas'd not day nor night
 To storm me over-watcht, and wearied out, 405
 At times when men seek most repose and rest
 I yielded, and unlock'd her all my heart,
 Who with a grain of manhood well resolv'd,
 Might easily have shook off all her snares
 But foul effeminacy held me yok't 410
 Her bond-slave, O indignity, O blot
 To honour and religion' servile mind,
 Rewarded well with servile punishment'
 The base degree to which I now am fall'n,
 These rags, this grinding, is not yet so base 415
 As was my former servitude, ignoble,
 Unmanly, ignominious, infamous,
 True slavery, and that blindness worse than this,
 That saw not how degenerately I serv'd

Manoa I cannot praise thy marriage-choices, son, 420
 Rather approv'd them not, but thou didst plead
 Divine impulsion prompting how thou might'st
 Find some occasion to infest our foes
 I state not that, this I am sure, our foes
 Found soon occasion thereby to make thee 425
 Their captive, and their triumph, thou the sooner
 Temptation found'st, or over-potent charms
 To violate the sacred trust of silence
 Deposited within thee, which to have kept
 Tacit, was in thy power, true, and thou bear'st 430
 Enough, and more, the burden of that fault,
 Bitterly hast thou paid, and still art paying
 That rigid score A worse thing yet remains,

This day the Philistines a popular feast
Here celebrate in Gaza, and proclaim 435
Great pomp, and sacrifice, and praises loud
To Dagon, as their god who hath deliver'd
Thee, Samson, bound and blind, into their hands,
Them out of thine, who slew'st them many a slain
So Dagon shall be magnifi'd, and God, 440
Besides whom is no God, compar'd with idols,
Disglorifi'd, blasphem'd, and had in scorn
By th' idolatrous rout amidst their wine,
Which to have come to pass by means of thee,
Samson, of all thy sufferings think the heaviest, 445
Of all reproach the most with shame that ever
Could have befall'n thee and thy father's house

Samson Father, I do acknowledge and confess
That I this honour, I this pomp have brought
To Dagon, and advanc'd his praises high 450
Among the heathen round, to God have brought
Dishonour, obloquy, and op't the mouths
Of idolists, and atheists, have brought scandal
To Israel, diffidence of God, and doubt
In feeble hearts, propense enough before 455
To waver, or fall off and join with idols,
Which is my chief affliction, shame and sorrow,
The anguish of my soul, that suffers not
Mine eye to harbour sleep, or thoughts to rest
This only hope relieves me, that the strife 460
With me hath end, all the contest is now
'Twixt God and Dagon, Dagon hath presum'd,
Me overthrown, to enter lists with God,
His deity comparing and preferring
Before the God of Abraham He, be sure, 465
Will not connive, or linger, thus provok'd
But will arise and his great name assert
Dagon must stoop, and shall ere long receive
Such a discomfit, as shall quite despoil him
Of all these boasted trophies won on me, 470
And with confusion blank his worshippers.

Man With cause this hope relieves thee, and these words
 I as a prophecy receive, for God,
 Nothing more certain, will not long defer
 To vindicate the glory of his name 475
 Against all competition, nor will long
 Endure it doubtful, whether God be Lord,
 Or Dagon But for thee what shall be done?
 Thou must not in the meanwhile, here forgot,
 Lie in this miserable loathsome plight, 480
 Neglected I already have made way
 To some Philistian lords, with whom to treat
 About thy ransom well they may by this
 Have satisfi'd their utmost of revenge
 By pains and slaveries worse than death, inflicted 485
 On thee, who now no more canst do them harm

Samson Spare that proposal, father, spare the trouble
 Of that solicitation, let me here,
 As I deserve, pay on my punishment,
 And expiate, if possible, my crime, 490
 Shameful garrulity To have reveal'd
 Secrets of men, the secrets of a friend,
 How heinous had the fact been, how deserving
 Contempt, and scorn of all, to be excluded
 All friendship, and avoided as a blab, 495
 The mark of fool, set on his front? But I
 God's counsel have not kept, his holy secret
 Presumptuously have publish'd, impiously,
 Weakly at least, and shamefully, a sin
 That Gentiles in their parables condemn, 500
 To their abyss and horrid pains confin'd

Manoa Be penitent, and for thy fault contrite,
 *But act not in thy own affliction, son -
 Repent the sin, but if the punishment
 Thou canst avoid, self-preservation bids, 505
 Or th' execution leave to high disposal,
 And let another hand, not thine, exact
 Thy penal forfeit from thyself perhaps
 God will relent, and quit thee all his debt,

Who ever more approves and more accepts 510
 (Best pleas'd with humble and filial submission)
 Him who imploring mercy sues for life,
 Than who self-rigorous chooses death as due,
 Which argues over-just, and self-displeas'd,
 For self-offence, more than for God offended 515
 Reject not then what offer'd means, who knows
 But God hath set before us to return thee
 Home to thy country and his sacred house?
 Where thou may'st bring thy off'rings, to avert
 His further ire, with prayers and vows renew'd 520

Samson His pardon I implore, but as for life,
 To what end should I seek it? when in strength
 All mortals I excell'd, and great in hopes
 With youthful courage and magnanimous thoughts
 Of birth from Heav'n foretold and high exploits, 525
 Full of divine instinct, after some proof
 Of acts indeed heroic, far beyond
 The sons of Anak, famous now and blaz'd,
 Fearless of danger, like a petty god
 I walk'd about admir'd of all, and dreaded 530
 On hostile ground, none daring my affront
 Then swoll'n with pride into the snare I fell
 Of fair, fallacious looks, venereal trains,
 Soft'nd with pleasure and voluptuous life,
 At length to lay my head and hallow'd pledge 535
 Of all my strength in the lascivious lap
 Of a deceitful concubine, who shore me
 Like a tame wether, all my precious fleece,
 Then turn'd me out ridiculous, despoil'd;
 Shav'n, and disarm'd among my enemies 540

Chorus Desire of wine and all delicious drinks,
 Which many a famous warrior overturns,
 Thou could'st repress, nor did the dancing ruby,
 Sparkling out-pour'd, the flavour, or the smell,
 Or taste that cheers the heart of gods and men,
 Allure thee from the cool crystalline stream

Samson Wherever fountain or fresh current flow'd
 Against the eastern ray, translucent, pure
 With touch ethereal of Heav'n's fiery rod,
 I drank, from the clear milky juice allaying 550
 Thirst, and refresht nor envi'd them the grape
 Whose heads that turbulent liquor fills with fumes

Chorus O madness! to think use of strongest wines
 And strongest drinks our chief support of health,
 When God with these forbidd'n made choice to rear 555
 His mighty champion, strong above compare,
 Whose drink was only from the liquid brook

Samson But what avail'd this temperance, not complete
 Against another object more enticing?
 What boots it at one gate to make defence, 560
 And at another to let in the foe,
 Effeminately vanquish't? by which means,
 Now blind, disheart'nd, sham'd, dishonour'd, quell'd,
 To what can I be useful? wherein serve
 My nation, and the work from Heav'n impos'd? 565
 But to sit idle on the household hearth,
 A burdensome drone, to visitants a gaze,
 Or pitied object, these redundant locks
 Robustious to no purpose clustring down,
 Vain monument of strength, till length of years 570
 And sedentary numbness craze my limbs
 To a contemptible old age obscure
 Here rather let me drudge, and earn my bread,
 Till vermin, or the draff of servile food
 Consume me, and oft-invoked death 575
 Hast'n the welcome end of all my pains

Man Wilt thou then serve the Philistines with that gift
 Which was expressly giv'n thee to annoy them?
 Better at home lie bed-rid, not only idle,
 Inglorious, unemploy'd, with age outworn 580
 But God who caus'd a fountain at thy prayer
 From the dry ground to spring, thy thirst to allay
 After the brunt of battle, can as easy

Cause light again within thy eyes to spring,
 Wherewith to serve him better than thou hast, 585
 And I persuade me so, why else this strength
 Miraculous yet remaining in those locks?
 His might continues in thee not for naught,
 Nor shall his wondrous gifts be frustrate thus

Samson All otherwise to me my thoughts portend, 590
 That these dark orbs no more shall treat with light,
 Nor th' other light of life continue long,
 But yield to double darkness, nigh at hand
 So much I feel my genial spirits droop,
 My hopes all flat, Nature within me seems 595
 In all her functions weary of herself,
 My race of glory run, and race of shame,
 And I shall shortly be with them that rest

Manoa Believe not these suggestions, which proceed
 From anguish of the mind and humours black 600
 That mingle with thy fancy I however
 Must not omit a father's timely care
 To prosecute the means of thy deliverance,
 By ransom or how else meanwhile be calm,
 And healing words from these thy friends, admit 605

Samson O' that torment should not be confin'd
 To the body's wounds and sores,
 With maladies innumerable
 In heart, head, breast, and reins,
 But must secret passage find 610
 To th' inmost mind,
 There exercise all his fierce accidents,
 And on her purest spirits prey
 As on entrails, joints, and limbs,
 With answerable pains, but more intense, 615
 Though void of corporal sense

My griefs not only pain me
 As a lingring disease,
 But finding no redress, ferment and rage,
 Nor less than wounds immedicable 620

Rankle, and fester, and gangrene,
 To black mortification
 Thoughts my tormentors, arm'd with deadly stings,
 Mangle my apprehensive tenderest parts,
 Exasperate, exulcerate, and raise 625
 Dire inflammation which no cooling herb
 Or med'cinal liquor can assuage,
 Nor breath of vernal air from snowy Alp
 Sleep hath forsook and giv'n me o'er
 To death's benumbing opium as my only cure 630
 Thence faintings, swoonings of despair,
 And sense of Heav'n's desertion

I was his nursling once and choice delight,
 His destin'd from the womb,
 Promis'd by Heavenly message twice descending. 635
 Under his special eye
 Abstemious I grew up and thrived amain,
 He led me on to mightiest deeds
 Above the nerve of mortal arm
 Against the uncircumcis'd, our enemies 640
 But now hath cast me off as never known,
 And to those cruel enemies,
 Whom I by his appointment had provok't,
 Left me all helpless with th' irreparable loss
 Of sight, reserv'd alive to be repeated 645
 The subject of their cruelty or scorn
 Nor am I in the list of them that hope,
 Hopeless are all my evils, all remediless,
 This one prayer yet remains, might I be heard,
 No long petition, speedy death, 650
 The close of all my miseries, and the balm

Chorus Many are the sayings of the wise,
 In antient and in modern books enroll'd,
 Extolling patience as the truest fortitude,
 And to the bearing well of all calamities, 655
 All chances incident to man's frail life,
 Consolatories writ
 With studied argument, and much persuasion sought,

Lenient of grief and anxious thought,
But with th' afflicted in his pangs their sound 660
Little prevails, or rather seems a tune
Harsh, and of dissonant mood from his complaint,
Unless he feel within

Some source of consolation from above,
Secret refreshings that repair his strength, 665
And fainting spirits uphold

God of our fathers, what is man !
That thou towards him with hand so various,
(Or might I say contrarious ?)
Tempest'st thy providence through his short course, 670
Not evenly, as thou rul'st

The angelic orders, and inferior creatures mute,
Irrational and brute
Nor do I name of men the common rout,
That wand'ring loose about, 675

Grow up and perish, as the summer-fly,
Heads without name, no more remember'd,
But such as thou hast solemnly elected,
With gifts and graces eminently adorn'd
To some great work, thy glory, 680

And people's safety, which in part they effect
Yet towards these thus dignifi'd, thou oft
Amidst their highth of noon,
Changest thy countenance and thy hand, with no regard
Of highest favours past 685

From thee on them, or them to thee of service
Nor only dost degrade them, or remit
To life obscur'd, which were a fair dismissal,
But throw'st them lower than thou didst exalt them high,
Unseemly falls in human eye, 690

Too grievous for the trespass or omission,
Oft leav'st them to the hostile sword
Of heathen and profane, their carcasses
To dogs and fowls a prey, or else captiv'd,
Or to the unjust tribunals, under change of times, 695
And condemnation of the ingrateful multitude

If these they 'scape, perhaps in poverty
 With sickness and disease thou bow'st them down,
 Painful diseases, and deform'd,
 In crude old age, 700
 Though not disordinate, yet causeless suffering
 The punishment of dissolute days, in fine,
 Just or unjust, alike seem miserable,
 For oft alike both come to evil end

So deal not with this once thy glorious champion, 705
 The image of thy strength, and mighty minister
 What do I beg? how hast thou dealt already?
 Behold him in this state calamitous, and turn
 His labours, for thou canst, to peaceful end

But who, is this, what thing of sea or land? 710
 Female of sex it seems,
 That so bedeckt, ornate, and gay,
 Comes this way sailing

Like a stately ship
 Of Tarsus, bound for th' isles 715
 Of Javan or Gadire,

With all her bravery on, and tackle trim,
 Sails fill'd, and streamers waving,
 Courted by all the winds that hold them play,
 An amber scent of odorous perfume 720

Her harbinger, a damsel train behind
 Some rich Philistian matron she may seem,
 And now at nearer view, no other certain
 Than Dalila, thy wife 724

Samson My wife! my traitress! let her not come near me

Chorus Yet on she moves, now stands, and eyes thee fixt,
 About t' have spoke, but now with head declin'd
 Like a fair flower surcharg'd with dew, she weeps,
 And words addrest seem into tears dissolv'd,
 Wetting the borders of her silken veil 730
 But now again she makes address to speak

DALILA

Dahla With doubtful feet and wavering resolution
 I came, still dreading thy displeasure, Samson,
 Which to have merited, without excuse,
 I cannot but acknowledge, yet if tears 735
 May expiate, (though the fact more evil drew
 In the perverse event than I foresaw,)
 My penance hath not slack'n'd, though my pardon
 No way assur'd But conjugal affection,
 Prevailing over fear and timorous doubt, 740
 Hath led me on, desirous to behold
 Once more thy face, and know of thy estate,
 If aught in my ability may serve
 To lighten what thou suffer'st, and appease
 Thy mind with what amends is in my power, 745
 Though late, yet in some part to recompense
 My rash but more unfortunate misdeed

Samson Out, out, hyæna! these are thy wonted arts,
 And arts of every woman false like thee,
 To break all faith, all vows, deceive, betray, 750
 Then as repentant to submit, beseech,
 And reconciliation move with feign'd remorse,
 Confess, and promise wonders in her change,
 Not truly penitent, but chief to try
 Her husband, how far urg'd his patience bears, 755
 His virtue or weakness which way to assail
 Then with more cautious and instructed skill
 Again transgresses, and again submits,
 That wisest and best men, full oft beguil'd,
 With goodness, principl'd not to reject 760
 The penitent, but ever to forgive,
 Are drawn to wear out miserable days,
 Entangl'd with a pois'nous bosom snake,
 If not by quick destruction soon cut off,
 As I by thee, to ages an example 765

Dahila Yet hear me, Samson, not that I endeavour
 To lessen or extenuate my offence,

But that on th' other side if it be weigh'd
 By itself, with aggravations not surcharg'd,
 Or else with just allowance counterpois'd, 770
 I may, if possible, thy pardon find
 The easier towards me, or thy hatred less
 First granting, as I do, it was a weakness
 In me, but incident to all our sex,
 Curiosity, inquisitive, importune 775
 Of secrets, then with like infirmity
 To publish them, both common female faults
 Was it not weakness also to make known
 For importunity, that is for naught,
 Wherein consisted all thy strength and safety? 780
 To what I did thou show'd'st me first the way
 But I to enemies reveal'd, and should not
 Nor should'st thou have trusted that to woman's frailty
 Ere I to thee, thou to thyself wast cruel
 Let weakness then with weakness come to parle, 785
 So near related, or the same of kind,
 Thine forgive mine, that men may censure thine
 The gentler, if severely thou exact not
 More strength from me, than in thyself was found
 And what if love, which thou interpret'st hate, 790
 The jealousy of love, powerful of sway
 In human hearts, nor less mine towards thee,
 Caus'd what I did? I saw thee mutable
 Of fancy, fear'd lest one day thou would'st leave me
 As her at Timna, sought by all means, therefore, 795
 How to endear, and hold thee to me firmest,
 No better way I saw than by importuning
 To learn thy secrets, get into my power
 Thy key of strength and safety thou wilt say,
 Why then reveal'd? I was assur'd by those 800
 Who tempted me, that nothing was design'd
 Against thee but safe custody, and hold
 That made for me, I knew that liberty
 Would draw thee forth to perilous enterprises,
 While I at home sate full of cares and fears,
 Wailing thy absence in my widow'd bed,

Here I should still enjoy thee day and night,
 Mine and love's prisoner, not the Philistines',
 Whole to myself, unhazarded abroad,
 Fearless at home of partners in my love, 810
 These reasons in love's law have pass'd for good,
 Though fond and reasonless to some perhaps,
 And love hath oft, well meaning, wrought much woe,
 Yet always pity or pardon hath obtain'd.
 Be not unlike all others, not austere 815
 As thou art strong, inflexible as steel
 If thou in strength all mortals dost exceed,
 In uncompassionate anger do not so

Samson How cunningly the sorceress displays
 Her own transgressions, to upbraid me mine! 820
 That malice, not repentance, brought thee hither,
 By this appears I gave, thou say'st, th' example,
 I led the way, bitter reproach, but true,
 I to myself was false ere thou to me
 Such pardon therefore as I give my folly, 825
 Take to thy wicked deed, which when thou seest
 Impartial, self-severe, inexorable,
 Thou wilt renounce thy seeking, and much rather
 Confess it feign'd weakness is thy excuse,
 And I believe it, weakness to resist 830
 Philistian gold if weakness may excuse,
 What murderer, what traitor, parricide
 Incestuous, sacrilegious, but may plead it?
 All wickedness is weakness that plea therefore
 With God or man will gain thee no remission 835
 But love constrain'd thee. call it furious rage
 To satisfy thy lust love seeks to have love,
 My love how could'st thou hope, who tookst the way
 To raise in me inexpiable hate,
 Knowing, as needs I must, by thee betray'd? 840
 In vain thou striv'st to cover shame with shame,
 Or by evasions thy crime uncover'st more.

Dalila Since thou determin'st weakness for no plea
 In man or woman, though to thy own condemning,

Hear what assaults I had, what snares besides, 845
 What sieges girt me round, ere I consented,
 Which might have aw'd the best-resolv'd of men,
 The constantest, to have yielded without blame
 It was not gold, as to my charge thou lay'st,
 That wrought with me thou know'st the magistrates 850
 And princes of my country came in person,
 Solicited, commanded, threaten'd, urg'd,
 Adjur'd by all the bonds of civil duty
 And of religion, press'd how just it was,
 How honourable, how glorious, to entrap 855
 A common enemy, who had destroy'd
 Such numbers of our nation and the priest
 Was not behind, but ever at my ear,
 Preaching how meritorious with the gods
 It would be to ensnare an irreligious 860
 Dishonourer of Dagon what had I
 To oppose against such powerful arguments?
 Only my love of thee held long debate,
 And combated in silence all these reasons
 With hard contest at length that ground'd maxim 865
 So rife and celebrated in the mouths
 Of wisest men, that to the public good
 Private respects must yield, with grave authority
 Took full possession of me and prevail'd,
 Virtue, as I thought, truth, duty, so enjoining 870
Sams I thought where all thy circling wiles would end,
 In feign'd religion, smooth hypocrisy
 But had thy love, still odiously pretended,
 Been, as it ought, sincere, it would have taught thee
 Far other reasonings, brought forth other deeds 875
 I before all the daughters of my tribe
 And of my nation chose thee from among
 My enemies, lov'd thee, as too well thou knew'st,
 Too well, unbosom'd all my secrets to thee,
 Not out of levity, but overpower'd 880
 By thy request, who could deny thee nothing,
 Yet now am judg'd an enemy Why then

Didst thou at first receive me for thy husband,
 Then, as since then, thy country's foe profest ?
 Being once a wife, for me thou wast to leave 885
 Parents and country, nor was I their subject,
 Nor under their protection, but my own,
 Thou mine, not theirs if aught against my life
 Thy country sought of thee, it sought unjustly,
 Against the law of nature, law of nations, 890
 No more thy country, but an impious crew
 Of men conspiring to uphold their state
 By worse than hostile deeds, violating the ends
 For which our country is a name so dear,
 Not therefore to be obey'd But zeal mov'd thee, 895
 To please thy gods thou didst it, gods unable
 To acquit themselves and prosecute their foes
 But by ungodly deeds, the contradiction
 Of their own deity, gods cannot be,
 Less therefore to be pleas'd, obey'd, or fear'd 900
 These false pretexts and varnish'd colours failing,
 Bare in thy guilt how foul must thou appear !

Dahla In argument with men a woman ever
 Goes by the worse, whatever be her cause

Samson For want of words, no doubt, or lack of breath,
 Witness when I was worried with thy peals 906

Dahla I was a fool, too rash, and quite mistaken
 In what I thought would have succeeded best
 Let me obtain forgiveness of thee, Samson,
 Afford me place to show what recompense 910
 Towards thee I intend for what I have misdone,
 Misguided, only what remains past cure
 Bear not too sensibly, nor still insist
 To afflict thyself in vain, though sight be lost,
 Life yet hath many solaces, enjoy'd 915
 Where other senses want not their delights,
 At home in leisure and domestic ease,
 Exempt from many a care and chance to which
 Eyesight exposes daily men abroad

I to the lords will intercede, not doubting 920
 Their favourable ear, that I may fetch thee
 From forth this loathsome prison-house, to abide
 With me, where my redoubl'd love and care,
 With nursing diligence, to me glad office,
 May ever tend about thee to old age, 925
 With all things grateful cheer'd, and so suppli'd,
 That what by me thou hast lost thou least shall miss

Samson No, no, of my condition take no care,
 It fits not, thou and I long since are twain,
 Nor think me so unwary, or accurst 930
 To bring my feet again into the snare
 Where once I have been caught I know thy trains,
 Though dearly to my cost, thy gins, and toils,
 Thy fair enchanted cup, and warbling charms
 No more on me have power, their force is null'd, 935
 So much of adder's wisdom I have learnt
 To fence my ear against thy sorceries
 If in my flower of youth and strength, when all men
 Lov'd, honour'd, fear'd me, thou alone could'st hate me,
 Thy husband, slight me, sell me, and forego me, 940
 How would'st thou use me now, blind, and thereby
 Deceivable, in most things as a child
 Helpless, thence easily contemn'd, and scorn'd,
 And last neglected? How wouldst thou insult,
 When I must live uxorious to thy will, 945
 In perfet thraldom! how again betray me,
 Bearing my words and doings to the lords
 To gloss upon, and censuring, frown or smile!
 This jail I count the house of liberty
 To thine, whose doors my feet shall never enter 950

Dahla Let me approach at least, and touch thy hand

Samson Not for thy life, lest fierce remembrance wake
 My sudden rage to tear thee joint by joint
 At distance I forgive thee, go with that,
 Bewail thy falsehood, and the pious works 955
 It hath brought forth to make thee memorable

Among illustrious women, faithful wives
 Cherish thy hasten'd widowhood with the gold
 Of matrimonial treason so farewell

Dahila I see thou art implacable, more deaf 960
 To prayers, than winds and seas, yet winds to seas
 Are reconcil'd at length, and sea to shore
 Thy anger, unappeasable, still rages,
 Eternal tempest, never to be calm'd
 Why do I humble thus myself, and sung 965
 For peace, reap nothing but repulse and hate?
 Bid go with evil omen, and the brand
 Of infamy upon my name denounc't?
 To mix with thy concernments I desist
 Henceforth, nor too much disapprove my own 970
 Fame if not double-fac't is double-mouth'd,
 And with contrary blast proclaims most deeds,
 On both his wings, one black, the other white,
 Bears greatest names in his wild aery flight
 My name perhaps among the circumcis'd 975
 In Dan, in Judah, and the bordering tribes,
 To all posterity may stand defam'd,
 With malediction mention'd, and the blot
 Of falsehood most unconjugal traduc't
 But in my country where I most desire, 980
 In Ecron, Gaza, Asdod, and in Gath
 I shall be nam'd among the famousest
 Of women, sung at solemn festivals,
 Living and dead recorded, who to save
 Her country from a fierce destroyer, chose 985
 Above the faith of wedlock-bands, my tomb
 With odours visited, and annual flowers
 Not less renown'd than in mount Ephraim
 Jael, who with inhospitable guile
 Smote Sisera sleeping through the temples nail'd. 990
 Nor shall I count it heinous to enjoy
 The public marks of honour and reward
 Conferr'd upon me, for the piety
 Which to my country I was judg'd to have shewn

At this whoever envies or repines, 995
I leave him to his lot, and like my own

Chorus She's gone, a manifest serpent by her sting
Discover'd in the end, till now conceal'd

Samson So let her go, God sent her to debase me,
And aggravate my folly who committed 1000
To such a viper his most sacred trust
Of secresy, my safety, and my life

Chorus Yet beauty, though injurious, hath strange power,
After offence returning, to regain
Love once possest, nor can be easily 1005
Repuls't, without much inward passion felt,
And secret sting of amorous remorse

Samson Love-quarrels oft in pleasing concord end,
Not wedlock-treachery endangering life

Chorus It is not virtue, wisdom, valour, wit, 1010
Strength, comeliness of shape, or amplest merit,
That woman's love can win or long inherit,
But what it is, hard is to say,
Harder to hit,

(Which way soever men refer it) 1015
Much like thy riddle, Samson, in one day
Or seven, though one should musing sit

If any of these or all, the Timnian bride
Had not so soon preferr'd
Thy paranymp, worthless to thee compar'd, 1020
Successor in thy bed,
Nor both so loosely disall'd

Their nuptials, nor this last so treacherously
Had shorn the fatal harvest of thy head
Is it for that such outward ornament 1025
Was lavish't on their sex, that inward gifts
Were left for haste unfinish't, judgment scant,
Capacity not rais'd to apprehend

Or value what is best
In choice, but ofttest to affect the wrong? 1030
Or was too much of self-love mixt,

Of constancy no root infix't,

That either they love nothing, or not long?

Whate'er it be, to wisest men and best

Seeming at first all heavenly under virgin veil, 1035

Soft, modest, meek, demure,

Once join'd, the contrary she proves, a thorn

Intestine, far within defensive arms

A cleaving mischief, in his way to virtue

Adverse and turbulent, or by her charms 1040

Draws him awry, enslav'd

With dotage, and his sense deprav'd

To folly and shameful deeds which ruin ends

What pilot so expert but needs must wreck

Imbark'd with such a steersmate at the helm? 1045

Favour'd of Heav'n! who finds

One virtuous, rarely found,

That in domestic good combines

Happy that house! his way to peace is smooth

But virtue which breaks through all opposition, 1050

And all temptation can remove,

Most shines, and most is acceptable above

Therefore God's universal law

Gave to the man despotic power

Over his female in due awe, 1055

Nor from that right to part an hour,

Smile she or lour

So shall he least confusion draw

On his whole life, not sway'd

By female usurpation, or dismay'd 1060

But had we best retire? I see a storm

Samson Fair days have oft contracted wind and rain

Chorus But this another kind of tempest brings

Samson Be less abstruse, my riddling days are past

Chorus Look ^{now} for no enchanting voice, nor fear

The bait of homied words, a rougher tongue 1066

Draws hitherward, I know him by his stride,

The giant Harapha of Gath, his look

Haughty as is his pile high-built and proud
 Comes he in peace? what wind hath blown him hither 1070
 I less conjecture than when first I saw
 The sumptuous Dalila floating this way
 His habit carries peace, his brow defiance

Samson Or peace or not, alike to me he comes

Ghorus His fraught we soon shall know, he now arrives

HARAPHA

Harapha I come not, Samson, to condole thy chance, 1076
 As these perhaps, yet wish it had not been,
 Though for no friendly intent I am of Gath,
 Men call me Harapha, of stock renown'd
 As Og, or Anak and the Emims old 1080
 That Kiriathaim held, thou know'st me now
 If thou at all art known Much I have heard
 Of thy prodigious might and feats perform'd,
 Incredible to me, in this displeas'd,
 That I was never present on the place 1085
 Of those encounters, where we might have tri'd
 Each other's force in camp or listed field,
 And now am come to see of whom such noise
 Hath walk'd about, and each limb to survey,
 If thy appearance answer loud report 1090

Samson Thy way to know were not to see but taste

Harapha Dost thou already single me? I thought
 Gyves and the mill had tamed thee O that fortune
 Had brought me to the field, where thou art fam'd
 To have wrought such wonders with an ass's jaw, 1095
 I should have forc'd thee soon wish other arms,
 Or left thy carcass where the ass lay thrown
 So had the glory of prowess been recover'd
 To Palestine, won by a Philistine
 From the unforeseen'd race, of whom thou bear'st 1100
 The highest name for valiant acts, that honour,
 Certain to have won by mortal duel from thee.

Samson Boast not of what thou would'st have done, but do
What then thou would'st, thou seest it in thy hand 1105

Harapha To combat with a blind man I disdain,
And thou hast need much washing to be toucht

Samson Such usage as your honourable lords
Afford me assassinated and betray'd,
Who durst not with their whole united powers 1110
In fight withstand me single and unarm'd,
Nor in the house with chamber-ambushes
Close-banded durst attack me, no, not sleeping,
Till they had hir'd a woman, with their gold
Breaking her marriage-faith, to circumvent me 1115
Therefore without feign'd shifts let be assign'd
Some narrow place enclos'd, where sight may give thee,
Or rather flight, no great advantage on me,
Then put on all thy gorgeous arms, thy helmet
And brigandine of brass, thy broad habergeon, 1120
Vant-brace and greves, and gauntlet, add thy spear,
A weaver's beam, and seven-times-folded shield,
I only with an oak'n staff will meet thee,
And raise such outcries on thy clatter'd iron,
Which long shall not withhold me from thy head, 1125
That in a little time while breath remains thee,
Thou oft shalt wish thyself at Gath, to boast
Again in safety what thou would'st have done
To Samson, but shalt never see Gath more

Harapha Thou durst not thus disparage glorious arms,
Which greatest heroes have in battle worn, 1131
Their ornament and safety, had not spells,
And black enchantments, some magician's art,
Arm'd thee or charm'd thee strong, which thou from Heaven
Feign'dst at thy birth was given thee in thy hair, 1135
Where strength can least abide, though all thy hairs
Were bristles rang'd like those that ridge the back
Of chaft wild boars, or ruff'd porcupines

Samson I know no spells, use no forbidden arts,
My trust is in the living God who gave me 1140

At my nativity this strength, diffus'd
 No less through all my sinews, joints, and bones,
 Than thine, while I preserv'd these locks unshorn,
 The pledge of my unviolated vow
 For proof hereof, if Dagon be thy god, 1145
 Go to his temple, invoke his aid
 With solemnest devotion, spread before him
 How highly it concerns his glory now
 To frustrate and dissolve these magic spells,
 Which I to be the power of Israel's God 1150
 Avow, and challenge Dagon to the test,
 Offering to combat thee his champion bold,
 With th' utmost of his godhead seconded
 Then thou shalt see, or rather to thy sorrow
 Soon feel, whose god is strongest, thine or mine 1155

Harapha Presume not on thy God, whate'er he be,
 Thee he regards not, owns not, hath cut off
 Quite from his people, and delivered up
 Into thy enemies' hand, permitted them
 To put out both thine eyes, and fetter'd send thee 1160
 Into the common prison, there to grind
 Among the slaves and asses thy comrades,
 As good for nothing else, no better service,
 With those thy boist'rous locks, no worthy match
 For valour to assail, nor by the sword 1165
 Of noble warrior, so to stain his honour,
 But by the barber's razor best subdu'd

Samson All these indignities, for such they are
 From thine, these evils I deserve, and more,
 Acknowledge them from God inflicted on me 1170
 Justly, yet despair not of his final pardon
 Whose ear is ever open, and his eye
 Gracious to re-admit the suppliant
 In confidence whereof I once again
 Defy thee to the trial of mortal fight, 1175
 By combat to decide whose god is God,
 Thine, or whom I with Israel's sons adore

Har Fair honour that thou dost thy God, in trusting
He will accept thee to defend his cause, 1179
A murderer, a revolter, and a robber !

Samson Tongue-doughty giant, how dost thou prove me
these ?

Harapha Is not thy nation subject to our lords ?
Their magistrates confest it, when they took thee
As a league-breaker and deliver'd bound
Into our hands for hadst thou not committed 1185
Notorious murder on those thirty men
At Ascalon, who never did thee harm,
Then like a robber stripp'dst them of their robes ?
The Philistines, when thou hadst broke the league,
Went up with armed powers thee only seeking, 1190
To others did no violence nor spoil

Samson Among the daughters of the Philistines
I chose a wife, which argu'd me no foe,
And in your city held my nuptial feast
But your ill-meaning politician lords, 1195
Under pretence of bridal friends and guests,
Appointed to await me thirty spies,
Who threat'ning cruel death constrain'd the bride
To wring from me, and tell to them my secret,
That solv'd the riddle which I had propos'd 1200
When I perceiv'd all set on enmity,
As on my enemies, wherever chanc'd,
I us'd hostility, and took their spoil
To pay my underminers in their coin
My nation was subjected to your lords 1205
It was the force of conquest, force with force
Is well ejected, when the conquer'd can,
But I a private person, whom my country
As a league-breaker gave up bound, presum'd
Single rebellion and did hostile acts 1210
I was no private but a person rais'd
With strength sufficient and command from Heav'n
To free my country, if their servile minds

Me their deliverer sent would not receive,
 But to their masters gave me up for naught, 1215
 Th' unworthier they, whence to this day they serve
 I was to do my part from Heav'n assign'd,
 And had perform'd it if my known offence
 Had not disabl'd me, not all your force
 These shifts refuted, answer thy appellant, 1220
 Though by his blindness maim'd for high attempts,
 Who now defies thee thrice to single fight,
 As a petty enterprise of small enforce

Harapha With thee a man condemn'd, a slave enroll'd,
 Due by the law to capital punishment ? 1225
 To fight with thee no man of arms will deign

Samson Cam'st thou for this, vain boaster, to survey me,
 To descant on my strength, and give thy verdict ?
 Come nearer, part not hence so slight inform'd,
 But take good heed my hand survey not thee 1230

Harapha O Baal-zebub ! can my ears unus'd
 Hear these dishonours, and not render death ?

Samson No man withholds thee, nothing from thy hand
 Fear I incurable, bring up thy van,
 My heels are fetter'd, but my fist is free 1235

Harapha This insolence other kind of answer fits

Samson Go, baffl'd coward, lest I run upon thee,
 Though in these chains, bulk without spirit vast,
 And with one buffet lay thy structure low,
 Or swing thee in the air, then dash thee down 1240
 To the hazard of thy brains and shatter'd sides

Harapha By Astaroth, ere long thou shalt lament
 These braveries, in irons loaden on thee

Chorus His giantship is gone somewhat crest-fall'n,
 Stalking with less unconscrinable strides, 1245
 And lower looks, but in a sultry chafe

Samson I dread him not, nor all his giant-brood,
 Though fame divulge him father of five sons,
 All of gigantic size, Goliath chief

Chorus He will directly to the lords, I fear, 1250
And with malicious counsel stir them up
Some way or other yet further to afflict thee

Samson He must allege some cause, and offer'd fight
Will not dare mention, lest a question rise
Whether he durst accept the offer or not, 1255
And that he durst not plain enough appear'd
Much more affliction than already felt
They cannot well impose, nor I sustain,
If they intend advantage of my labours,
The work of many hands, which earns my keeping 1260
With no small profit daily to my owners
But come what will, my deadliest foe will prove
My speediest friend, by death to rid me hence,
The worst that he can give, to me the best
Yet so it may fall out, because their end 1265
Is hate, not help to me, it may with mine
Draw their own ruin who attempt the deed

Chorus Oh how comely it is and how reviving
To the spirits of just men long oppress'd
When God into the hands of their deliverer 1270
Puts invincible might
To quell the mighty of the earth, th' oppressor,
The brute and boist'rous force of violent men
Hardy and industrious to support
Tyrannic power, but raging to pursue 1275
The righteous and all such as honour truth,
He all their ammunition
And feats of war defeats,
With plain heroic magnitude of mind
And celestial vigour arm'd, 1280
Their armouries and magazines contemns,
Renders them useless, while
With winged expedition
Swift as the lightning glance he executes
His errand on the wicked, who surpris'd 1285
Lose their defence, distracted and amaz'd

But patience is more oft the exercise
 Of saints, the trial of their fortitude,
 Making them each his own deliverer,
 And victor over all 1290
 That tyranny or fortune can inflict
 Either of these is in thy lot,
 Samson, with might endu'd
 Above the sons of men ! but sight bereav'd
 May chance to number thee with those 1295
 Whom patience finally must crown
 This idol's day hath been to thee no day of rest,
 Labouring thy mind
 More than the working day thy hands
 And yet perhaps more trouble is behind, 1300
 For I descry this way
 Some other tending, in his hand
 A sceptre or quaint staff he bears,
 Comes on amain, speed in his look
 By his habit I discern him now 1305
 A public officer, and now at hand
 His message will be short and voluble

OFFICER

Officer Ebrews, the pris'ner Samson here I seek

Chorus His manacles remark him, there he sits

Officer Samson, to thee our lords thus bid me say, 1310
 This day to Dagon is a solemn feast,
 With sacrifices, triumph, pomp, and games,
 Thy strength they know surpassing human rate,
 And now some public proof thereof require
 To honour this great feast, and great assembly, 1315
 Rise therefore with all speed, and come along,
 Where I will see thee heart'nd and fresh clad,
 To appear as fits before th' illustrious lords

Samson Thou know'st I am an Ebrew, therefore tell them,
 Our law forbids at their religious rites 1320
 My presence, for that cause I cannot come

Officer This answer, be assur'd, will not content them

Samson Have they not sword-players, and ev'ry sort
Of gymnastic artists, wrestlers, riders, runners,
Jugglers, and dancers, antics, mummers, mimics, 1325
But they must pick me out, with shackles tir'd,
And over-labour'd at their public mill,
To make them sport with blind activity?
Do they not seek occasion of new quarrels
On my refusal, to distress me more, 1330
Or make a game of my calamities?
Return the way thou cam'st, I will not come

Officer Regard thyself, this will offend them highly

Samson Myself? my conscience and internal peace
Can they think me so broken, so debas'd 1335
With corporal servitude, that my mind ever
Will condescend to such absurd commands?
Although their drudge, to be their fool or jester,
And in my midst of sorrow and heart-grief,
To show them feats, and play before their god, 1340
The worst of all indignities, yet on me
Join'd with extreme contempt? I will not come

Officer My message was impos'd on me with speed,
Brooks no delay is this thy resolution? 1344

Samson So take it with what speed thy message needs

Officer I am sorry what this stoutness will produce

Samson Perhaps thou shalt have cause to sorrow indeed.

Chorus Consider, Samson, matters now are stram'd
Up to the highth, whether to hold or break
He's gone, and who knows how he may report 1350
Thy words by adding fuel to the flame?
Expect another message, more imperious,
More lordly thund'ring than thou well wilt bear

Samson Shall I abuse this consecrated gift
Of strength, again returning with my hair, 1355
After my great transgression? so requite
Favour renew'd, and add a greater sin

By prostituting holy things to idols,
 A Nazarite in place abominable
 Vaunting my strength in honour to their Dagon? 1360
 Besides, how vile, contemptible, ridiculous,
 What act more execrably unclean, profane?

Chor Yet with this strength thou serv'st the Philistines,
 Idolatrous, uncircumcis'd, unclean

Samson Not in their idol-worship, but by labour 1365
 Honest and lawful, to deserve my food
 Of those who have me in their civil power

Chor Where the heart joins not, outward acts defile not

Sams Where outward force constrains, the sentence holds
 But who constrains me to the temple of Dagon, 1370
 Not dragging? The Philistian lords command
 Commands are no constraints If I obey them,
 I do it freely, venturing to displease
 God for the fear of man, and man prefer,
 Set God behind which in his jealousy 1375
 Shall never, unrepented, find forgiveness
 Yet that he may dispense with me or thee
 Present in temples at idolatrous rites
 *For some important cause, thou need'st not doubt

Chor How thou wilt here come off surmounts my reach

Samson Be of good courage, I begin to feel 1381
 Some rousing motions in me, which dispose
 To something extraordinary my thoughts
 I with this messenger will go along,
 Nothing to do, be sure, that may dishonour 1385
 Our law, or stain my vow of Nazarite
 If there be aught of presage in the mind,
 This day will be remarkable in my life
 By some great act, or of my days the last

Chorus In time thou hast resolv'd, the man returns 1390

Officer Samson, this second message from our lords
 To thee I am bid say Art thou our slave,
 Our captivè, at the public mill our drudge,

And dar'st thou at our sending and command
 Dispute thy coming? come without delay, 1395
 Or we shall find such engines to assail
 And hamper thee, as thou shalt come of force,
 Though thou wert firmlier fasten'd than a rock

Samson I could be well content to try their art,
 Which to no few of them would prove pernicious 1400
 Yet knowing their advantages too many,
 Because they shall not trail me through their streets
 Like a wild beast, I am content to go
 Masters' commands come with a power resistless
 To such as owe them absolute subjection, 1405
 And for a life who will not change his purpose?
 (So mutable are all the ways of men.)
 Yet this be sure, in nothing to comply
 Scandalous or forbidden in our law

Officer I praise thy resolution, doff these links 1410
 By this compliance thou wilt win the lords
 To favour, and perhaps to set thee free

Samson Brethren, farewell, your company along
 I will not wish, lest it perhaps offend them
 To see me girt with friends, and how the sight 1415
 Of me, as of a common enemy,
 So dreaded once, may now exasperate them
 I know not Lords are lordliest in their wine,
 And the well-feasted priest then soonest fir'd
 With zeal, if aught religion seem concern'd, 1420
 No less the people on their holy-days
 Impetuous, insolent, unquenchable
 Happ'n what may, of me expect to hear
 Nothing dishonourable, impure, unworthy
 Our God, our law, my nation, or myself, 1425
 The last of me or no I cannot warrant

Chorus Go, and the Holy One
 Of Israel be thy guide,
 To what may serve his glory best, and spread his name
 Great among the Heathen round, 1430

Send thee the angel of thy birth, to stand
 Fast by thy side, who from thy father's field
 Rode up in flames after his message told
 Of thy conception, and be now a shield
 Of fire, that spirit that first rusht on thee 1435
 In the camp of Dan
 Be efficacious in thee now at need
 For never was from Heaven imparted
 Measure of strength so great to mortal seed,
 As in thy wondrous actions hath been seen 1440
 But wherefore comes old Manoa in such haste
 With youthful steps? much livelier than ere while
 He seems, supposing here to find his son,
 Or of him bringing to us some glad news?

MANOA

Manoa Peace with you, brethren, my inducement hither
 Was not at present here to find my son, 1446
 By order of the lords now parted hence,
 To come and play before them at their feast
 I heard all as I came, the city rings,
 And numbers thither flock, I had no will, 1450
 Lest I should see him forc't to things unseemly
 But that which mov'd my coming now, was chiefly
 To give ye part with me what hope I have
 With good success to work his liberty

Chorus That hope would much rejoice us to partake
 With thee, say, reverend sire, we thirst to hear 1456

Manoa I have attempted one by one the lords
 Either at home, or through the high street passing,
 With supplication prone and father's tears,
 To accept of ransom for my son their pris'ner 1460
 Some much averse I found and wondrous harsh,
 Contemptuous, proud, set on revenge and spite,
 That part most reverenc'd Dagon and his priests,
 Others more moderate seeming, but their aim
 Private reward, for which both God and State 1465

They easily would set to sale, a third
More generous far and civil, who confess'd
They had enough reveng'd, having reduc't
Then foe to misery beneath their fears,
The rest was magnanimity to remit, 1470
If some convenient ransom were propos'd
What noise or shout was that? it tore the sky

Chorus Doubtless the people shouting to behold
Their once great dread, captive, and blind before them
Or at some proof of strength before them shown 1475

Manoa His ransom, if my whole inheritance
May compass it, shall willingly be paid
And number'd down much rather I shall choose
To live the poorest in my tribe, than richest,
And he in that calamitous prison left 1480
No, I am fixt not to part hence without him
For his redemption, all my patrimony,
If need be, I am ready to forego
And quit not wanting him, I shall want nothing

Chorus Fathers are wont to lay up for their sons, 1485
Thou for thy son are bent to lay out all,
Sons wont to nurse their parents in old age,
Thou in old age car'st how to nurse thy son,
Made older than thy age through eye-sight lost

Manoa It shall be my delight to tend his eyes, 1490
And view him sitting in the house, ennobl'd
With all those high exploits by him achiev'd,
And on his shoulders waving down those locks,
That of a nation arm'd the strength contain'd
And I persuade me, God had not permitted 1495
His strength again to grow up with his hair
Garrison'd round about him like a camp
Of faithful soldiery, were not his purpose
To use him further yet in some great service,
Not to sit idle with so great a gift 1500
Useless, and thence ridiculous, about him

And since his strength with eye-sight was not lost,
God will restore him eye-sight to his strength

Chorus Thy hopes are not ill-founded nor seem vain
Of his delivery, and thy joy thereon 1505
Conceiv'd agreeable to a father's love,
In both which we, as next, participate

Manoa I know your friendly minds and—O what noise!
Mercy of Heav'n, what hideous noise was that!
Horribly loud, unlike the former shout 1510

Chorus Noise call you it, or universal groan
As if the whole inhabitation perish'd!
Blood, death, and deathful deeds are in that noise,
Run, destruction at the utmost point

Manoa Of ruin indeed methought I heard the noise
Oh! it continues, they have slain my son 1516

Chorus Thy son is rather slaying them, that outcry
From slaughter of one foe could not ascend

Manoa Some dismal accident it needs must be,
What shall we do, stay here or run and see? 1520

Chorus Best keep together here, lest running thither
We unawares run into danger's mouth
This evil on the Philistines is fall'n,
From whom could else a general cry be heard?
The sufferers then will scarce molest us here, 1525
From other hands we need not much to fear
What if his eye-sight (for to Israel's God
Nothing is hard) by miracle restor'd,
He now be dealing dole among his foes,
And over heaps of slaughter'd walk his way? 1530

Manoa That were a joy presumptuous to be thought

Chorus Yet God hath wrought things as incredible,
For his people of old, what hinders now?

Manoa He can I know, but doubt to think he will,
Yet Hope would fain subscribe, and tempts Belief 1535
A little stay will bring some notice hither,

Chorus Of good or bad so great, of bad the sooner,
For evil news rides post, while good news baits
And to our wish I see one hither speeding,
An Ebrew, as I guess, and of our tribe 1540

Messenger O whither shall I run, or which way fly
The sight of this so horrid spectacle
Which erst my eyes beheld, and yet behold?
For dire imagination still pursues me
But providence or instinct of nature seems, 1545
Or reason though disturb'd, and scarce consulted,
To have guided me aright, I know not how,
To thee first, reverend Manoa, and to these
My countrymen, whom here I knew remaining,
As at some distance from the place of horror, 1550
So in the sad event too much concern'd

Manoa The accident was loud, and here before thee
With rueful cry, yet what it was we hear not,
No preface needs, thou seest we long to know

Messenger It would burst forth, but I recover breath
And sense distract, to know well what I utter 1556

Manoa Tell us the sum, the circumstance defer

Messenger Gaza yet stands, but all her sons are fall'n,
All in a moment overwhelm'd and fall'n

Manoa Sad, but thou know'st to Israelites not saddest,
The desolation of a hostile city 1561

Mess Feed on that first, there may in grief be surfeit

Manoa Relate by whom

Messenger By Samson

Manoa That still lessens 1565
The sorrow, and converts it nigh to joy

Messenger Ah! Manoa, I refrain too suddenly
To utter what will come at last too soon,
Lest evil tidings, with too rude irruption
Hitting thy aged ear, should pierce too deep 1570

Manoa Suspense in news is torture, speak them out.

Messenger Take then the worst in brief, Samson is dead

Manoa The worst indeed, O all my hopes defeated
 To free him hence! but Death who sets all free
 Hath paid his ransom now and full discharge 1575
 What windy joy this day had I conceiv'd,
 Hopeful of his delivery, which now proves
 Abortive as the first-born bloom of spring
 Nipt with the lagging rear of winter's frost!
 Yet ere I give the reins to grief, say first, 1580
 How died he? death to life is crown or shame
 All by him fell thou say'st, by whom fell he?
 What glorious hand gave Samson his death's wound?

Messenger Unwounded of his enemies he fell

Manoa Wearied with slaughter then, or how? explain

Messenger By his own hands 1586

Manoa Self-violence? what cause
 Brought him so soon at variance with himself,
 Among his foes?

Messenger Inevitable cause, 1590
 At once both to destroy and be destroy'd
 The edifice, where all were met to see him,
 Upon their heads and on his own he pull'd

Manoa O lastly over-strong against thyself!
 A dreadful way thou took'st to thy revenge 1595
 More than enough we know, but while things yet
 Are in confusion, give us if thou canst,
 Eye-witness of what first or last was done,
 Relation more particular and distinct

Messenger Occasions drew me early to this city, 1600
 And as the gates I enter'd with sun-rise,
 The morning trumpets festival proclaim'd
 Through each high street little I had dispatch't,
 When all abroad was rumour'd that this day
 Samson should be brought forth to show the people 1605
 Proof of his mighty strength in feats and games,
 I sorrow'd at his captive state, but minded

Not to be absent at that spectacle
The building was a spacious theatre
Half-round, on two main pillars vaulted high, 1610
With seats where all the lords and each degree
Of sort, might sit in order to behold,
The other side was op'n, where the throng
On banks and scaffolds under sky might stand,
I among these aloof obscurely stood 1615
The feast and noon grew high, and sacrifice
Had fill'd their hearts with mirth, high cheer, and wine,
When to their sports they turn'd Immediately
Was Samson as a public servant brought,
In their state livery clad, before him pipes 1620
And timbrels, on each side went armed guards,
Both horse and foot before him and behind,
Archers, and slingers, cataphracts and spears
At sight of him the people with a shout
Rifted the air, clamouring their god with praise, 1625
Who had made their dreadful enemy their thrall
He patient but undaunted where they led him,
Came to the place, and what was set before him
Which without help of eye, might be assay'd,
To heave, pull, draw, or break, he still perform'd 1630
All with incredible, stupendious force,
None daring to appear antagonist
At length for intermission sake they led him
Between the pillars, he his gude requested,
(For so from such as nearer stood we heard) 1635
As over-tir'd, to let him lean a while
With both his arms on those two massy pillars
That to the arched roof gave main support
He unsuspecting led him, which when Samson
Felt in his arms, with head a while inclin'd, 1640
And eyes fast fix't he stood, as one who pray'd,
Or some great matter in his mind revolv'd
At last with head erect thus cri'd aloud
'Hitherto, lords, what your commands impos'd
I have perform'd, as reason was, obeying, 1645

Not without wonder or delight beheld
 Now of my own accord such other trial
 I mean to show you of my strength, yet greater,
 As with amaze shall strike all who behold'
 This utter'd, straining all his nerves he bow'd, 1650
 As with the force of winds and waters pent,
 When mountains tremble, those two massy pillars,
 With horrible convulsion to and fro
 He tugg'd, he shook, till down they came and drew
 The whole roof after them, with burst of thunder 1655
 Upon the heads of all who sat beneath,
 Lords, ladies, captains, counsellors, or priests,
 Their choice nobility and flower, not only
 Of this, but each Philistian city round,
 Met from all parts to solemnize this feast 1660
 Samson with these immixt, inevitably
 Pull'd down the same destruction on himself,
 The vulgar only scap'd who stood without

Chorus O dearly bought revenge, yet glorious!
 Living or dying thou hast fulfill'd 1665
 The work for which thou wast foretold
 To Israel, and now li'st victorious
 Among thy slain self-kill'd,
 Not willingly, but tangl'd in the fold
 Of dire necessity, whose law in death conjoin'd 1670
 Thee with thy slaughter'd foes in number more
 Than all thy life had slain before

1 *Semichor* While their hearts were jocund and sublime,
 Drunk with idolatry, drunk with wine,
 And fat regorg'd of bulls and goats, 1675
 Chaunting their idol, and preferring
 Before our living Dread who dwells
 In Silo his bright sanctuary
 Among them he a spirit of phrenzy sent,
 Who hurt their minds, 1680
 And urg'd them on with mad desire
 To call in haste for their destroyer

They only set on sport and play
Unweetingly importun'd
Their own destruction to come speedy upon them 1685
So fond are mortal men
Fall'n into wrath divine,
As their own ruin on themselves to invite,
Insensate left, or to sense reprobate,
And with blindness internal struck 1690

2 *Semichorus* But he, though blind of sight,
Despis'd and thought extinguish't quite,
With inward eyes illuminated
His fiery virtue rous'd
From under ashes into sudden flame, 1695
And as an ev'ning dragon came,
Assailant on the perched roosts,
And nests in order rang'd
Of tame villatic fowl, but as an eagle
His cloudless thunder bolted on their heads 1700
So virtue giv'n for lost,
Deprest, and overthrown, as seem'd,
Like that self-begotten bird
In the Arabian woods embost,
That no second knows nor third, 1705
And lay erewhile a holocaust,
From out her ashy womb now teem'd,
Revives, reflourishes, then vigorous most
When most unactive deem'd,
And, though her body die, her fame survives, 1710
A secular bird, ages of lives

Manoa Come, come, no time for lamentation now,
Nor much more cause, Samson hath quit himself
Like Samson, and heroically hath finish'd
A life heroic, on his enemies 1715
Fully reveng'd, hath left them years of mourning,
And lamentation to the sons of Caphtor,
Through all Philistian bounds, to Israel
Honour hath left, and freedom, let but them

- Find courage to lay hold on this occasion , 1720
To himself and father's house eternal fame ,
And which is best and happiest yet, all this
With God not parted from him, as was fear'd,
But favouring and assisting to the end
Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail 1725
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,
Dispraise, or blame, nothing but well and fair,
And what may quiet us in a death so noble
Let us go find the body where it lies
Soak't in his enemies' blood, and from the stream 1730
With lavers pure and cleansing herbs wash off
The clotted gore I with what speed the while
(Gaza is not in plight to say us nay)
Will send for all my kindred, all my friends
To fetch him hence, and solemnly attend 1735
With silent obsequy and funeral train
Home to his father's house there will I build him
A monument, and plant it round with shade
Of laurel ever green, and branching palm,
With all his trophies hung, and acts enroll'd 1740
In copious legend, or sweet lyric song
Thither shall all the valiant youth resort,
And from his memory inflame their breasts
To matchless valour, and adventures high
The virgins also shall on feastful days 1745
Visit his tomb with flowers, only bewailing
His lot unfortunate in nuptial choice,
From whence captivity and loss of eyes
Chorus All is best, though we oft doubt,
What th' unsearchable dispose 1750
Of highest Wisdom brings about,
And ever best found in the close
Oft he seems to hide his face,
But unexpectedly returns,
And to his faithful champion hath in place 1755
Bore witness gloriously, whence Gaza mourns,
And all that band them to resist

His uncontrollable intent,
His servants he with new acquist
Of true experience from this great event,
With peace and consolation hath dismiss,
And calm of mind, all passion spent

1760

NOTES

NOTES

Paradise Lost

Book VII

- l 1 *Urania* Tasso begins his Jerusalem with a similar invocation
 l 7 *old*,—meaning renowned from old time (Cf Bks 1 420, II 593)
 Newton, referring to Bk 1 516, supposes that 'cold' was Milton's word
 l 8 Prov viii 24, 25, 30 The phrase of Wisdom 'rejoicing' before
 God is in the Vulgate 'ludens, 'playing,' and so Milton gives the passage
 in his Tetrachordon Cf Bacon (Advancement of Learning 1) 'as if,
 according to the innocent play of children, the Divine Majesty took delight
 to hide his works to the intent to have them found out
 l 17 Horace (Odes iv II 26) alludes to the fall of Bellerophon, who
 fell from his unreined steed Pegasus, when attempting to fly to Heaven *The*
Aleian field = the field of wandering (Iliad vi 201)
 l 20 *forlorn*,—utterly lost (A S *forleoran*, Dutch *verloren*)
 l 23 *rapt above the pole*—possibly with a reference to 2 Cor xii 2
 The phrase occurs in Sylvester's Du Bartas, where (p 526) are also the
 lines—

'I am Urania, then aloud said she,
 Who human kind above the poles transport'

- l 29 *visit my slumbers*—as Dante was visited by Beatrice 'in sogno'
 (Purgatorio, xxx 133)
 l 31 Horace, Satires, I 10 73
 l 33 Cf Aeneid, vi 258, Horace, Odes, III I 1-4.
 l 34 Alluding to the fate of Orpheus Cf Lycidas 61
 l 35 *had ears*,—cf the 'auritas quercus' of Horace (Odes, I 12 11)
 l 38 *fail not thou [him] who thee implores*,—a similar ellipse occurs in
 Virgil, Eclogues, II 23
 l 50 Milton coins *consorted* since 'consort' is a neuter verb. (Keightley)
 l 72 *interpreter*,—So Mercury is 'interpret divom' (Aeneid, IV 378)
 l 88 *yields or fills* Keightley would read 'and' for 'or', 'for where is
 the opposition between yielding and filling? and what is the meaning of
 yielding all space?' But the meaning is rather that the air yields (to other
 bodies) or itself fills all space
 l 94 *absolv'd*,—finished (*absolutus*)
 l 97 Job xxxvi 24

l 100 Cf Virgil, *Eclogues*, viii 69, and vi 86 Keightley prefers a comma after each 'voice' and a third after 'hears'

l 103 *unapparent* —invisible (Genesis 1 2)

l 112 *Iliad*, xii 176 Cf Bk vi 297, and I Cor xiii 1

l 116 *infer* —prove, a similar use to that of 'argue' in iv 830 So in Shakespeare, 2 Henry IV v 5

'This doth infer the zeal I had to see him'

l 121 Eccles vii 29, Deut xxix 29 Horace, *Odes*, iii 29 29, *Aeneid*, vi 267

l 122 I Tim 1 17

l 123 Eccles iii 11

l 126 Keightley quotes Sir William Davenant's poem of Gondibert (1651), ii 8 22

'For though books serve as diet for the mind,
If knowledge, early got, self-value breeds,
By false digestion it is turn'd to wind,
And what should nourish on the eater feeds'

l 135 Judas is said (Acts 1 25) to have gone 'to his own place'

l 142 *us dispossess* —in imitation of the ablative absolute

l 143 *fraud*,—crime (*fraus*), as in Horace (*Odes*, i 28 31)

l 144 Job vii 10, Psalm ciii 16

l 145 Jude 6

l 154 'Milton seems to favour the opinion of some divines, that God's creation was instantaneous but the effects of it were made visible and appeared in six days, in condescension to the capacities of angels, and is so narrated by Moses, in condescension to the capacities of men' (Newton)

l 162 *inhabit lax*,—dwell at large, a classical expression 'Habitare laxa voluit' Cicero, *Pro Domo Sua* 44

l 165 Luke 1 35

l 170 *myself retire*,—1 e 'though I freely withdraw myself'

l 182 Luke ii 14 These three ascriptions of 'Glory' praise the goodness, power, and wisdom of God (Keightley) Cf Hooker (*Ecclesiastical Polity*, v 56) 'The Father as Goodness, the Son as Wisdom, the Holy Ghost as Power, do all concur in every particular outwardly issuing from that one only glorious Deity which they all are' Bacon (*Advancement of Learning*, ii) does not follow this order, assigning to the Three Persons the 'special attributes' of Power, Wisdom and Love

l 197 *pour'd* is equivalent to 'fusi', 'et fusa juvenitus' (*Aeneid*, i 214, vii 812)

l 205 Psalm xxiv 7

l 206 Contrast the opening of the gates of Hell (ii 880)

l 214 *And surging* Newton corrected 'And' to 'In' Keightley approves, but keeps 'And' in his text

l 216 'If we can imagine any thought or expression worthy of the Deity, we find it here' (Landor) Cf Mark iv 39

l 224 *fervid wheels*,—an expression translated from Horace (*Odes*, i 1 4)

l 225 Prov vii 27 The marginal reading is 'a circle' *quam statueret ambitum in superficie abyssus?* (Junius)

l 235 *brooding* Neither 'moved' nor 'brooded' is an exact translation of the Hebrew of Gen 1 2 In Deut xxii 6 the same word is rendered 'fluttereth' (properly, 'flieth about') Ancient Jewish commentators supposed that the 'spirit of God' here mentioned was a strong wind, for in the Old Testament the Spirit of God is never represented under a material form (as it must be if it move or brood), and the removal of the waters from the earth after the Flood was effected by a strong wind (Keightley)

l 239 Keightley thus interprets this difficult passage By the 'rest' (l 240) he understands what remained after the dregs had been purged out and separated, and he takes 'founded' and 'conglobed' to be participles qualifying it 'The rest after having been melted fused, or run (l 708) and conglobed, or formed into two spheres (a hollow one for heaven, a solid one for earth), similar substances having combined for the purpose, he disparted or separated the spheres, putting each into its several or separate place He then spun out the air between them, and hung in the exact centre the Earth which was self-balanced, because from its globular form and equal distance from each point of the external sphere, it could not incline or move in any one direction more than another'

l 241 Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, i 12

l 244 Milton does not describe the creation of Light, but only says that it now sprung from the Deep Cf iii 716

l 245 Keightley points out the discrepancy between the account here, in which Light is said to journey through the interior of the great globe of the World, and that given in iii 11, where World cannot be synonymous with Earth

l 250 *by the hemisphere*,—because the portion of space between the spheres of earth and heaven formed two hemispheres of which (with respect to the earth) one must be in darkness while the other was in light (Keightley)

l 256 Job xxxviii 4, 7

l 264 In the cosmogony of Genesis, the firmament is the *solid* heaven with a large body of waters on its upper surface But Milton, by taking Gen 1 1 as the work of the first day and not a summary of the whole creation, was obliged to adopt to some extent the opinion that the firmament was the air, and that the waters *above* it were the clouds suspended in it (Keightley)

expanse,—The word translated 'firmament' (Gen 1 6) means 'expansion' (Newton) 'Esto expansum inter aquas' is the translation of Tremellius and Junius

l 268 Psalm xxiv 2, civ 3, cxxxvi. 6, cxlviii 4.

l 269 As the earth is spoken of in Scripture as 'on the waters,' Milton (forgetting that he had made the earth globular) adopts this view He then supposes the outer orb of the world to rest on a body of water, the waters above the firmament, and this body he seems to regard as the crystalline sphere of the Ptolemaic astronomy He would appear to place it above the planets and the fixed stars (iii 482) Altogether, his ideas seem inextricably confused. (Keightley)

l 272 Cf ii 895

l 285 Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, i 344

l 290 Psalm civ 7

l 299 *torrent*,—rushing (as ‘current’=‘running’ in line 67, and ‘serpent’=‘creeping’ in line 302)

l 306 *perpetual*,—unbroken So *sulcos perpetuos ducere* (Cato, *De Re Rusticâ* 33)

l 321 Bentley corrected ‘smelling’ of the early editions (inadvertently printed in the text) to ‘swelling’ (*Georgics*, iv 121)

Corny,—bearing corn Keightley remarks that in Gen xli 22, the word ‘stalk’ should be translated ‘reed’ In Lusse’s *Du Bartas* it is said of the rain that ‘it drown’d the corny ranks’

l 323 *hair*,—by a natural metaphor for the foliage, as ‘coma’ in Latin (Horace, *Odes* i 21 5, iv 7 2)

implicit —entangled (*implico*)

l 327 Cf L’Allegro 78

l 329 Like Calypso’s bower (*Odyssey*, v 13)

l 335 Milton here follows the received (but incorrect) translation of Gen ii 5, which should be ‘And no plant of the field was as yet in the earth’ (Keightley) The translation of Tremellius and Junius (used by Milton for the references in his *Christian Doctrine*) has ‘*omnemque herbam agri quae nondum fuisset oritura*’

l 358 Cf Spenser, *Hymn to Heavenly Beauty* 53

‘All sow’d with glistering stars, more thick than grass’

l 359 Keightley notes the discrepancy between this narrative and that in Bk iii 716

l 366 Venus is mentioned last for emphasis, a classic and Scripture usage Galileo’s telescope had shewn that Venus has phases like the moon (Keightley)

l 372 Cf Psalm xix 5, and *Faery Queene*, I v 2

l 373 Cf Carew’s lines

‘The yellow planets, and the gray
Dawn shall attend thee on thy way’

l 375 Job xxxviii 31 The picture by Guido, representing the chariot of the Sun, with Aurora flying before it, and seven nymphs (who may be intended for the Pleiades) dancing around it, is supposed to have suggested these lines

l 382 Milton has here, and at xii 86, anglicised the Ovidian adjective *dividuus*, and in *Areopagitica*, he writes ‘So that a man may say, his religion is no more within himself, but is become a dividual movable’

l 388 The ‘creeping things’ here named are of the sea (Psalm civ 25) Those of the earth are mentioned at line 452 The Hebrew word includes all kinds of fish

l 402 *scull*,—school or shoal (A S *sceole*) “‘Scull of herrings’” is still used in Norfolk (Todd)

l 409 *On smooth* (water)

l 410 *bended dolphins*,—cf ‘*tergo delphina recurvo*’ Ovid, *Fasti*, ii 113 By dolphins here are meant porpoises The modern dolphin is another kind of fish (Keightley)

l 416 Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, iii 686

l 420 *fledge*,—cf iii 627

l 421 *summ'd*—a term of falconry, applied to a hawk when his feathers have grown to their full strength Keightley remarks that the verb is never used actively, of the birds themselves, as here *pens* = wing feathers (pinnae)

l 422 *despised*,—Milton (it has been suggested) may have mistaken the meaning of 'despectare' (to 'look down upon, not to 'despise') in the passage he had in view, Aeneid, i 396

l 424 Job xxxix 27, 28 *eyries* = nests An *eyry*' is a collection of eggs an egg-ery (Latham)

l 426 Jeremiah viii 7

l 429 *mutual*—because the bird flying at the point of the V after a while falls back another taking his place

l 434 Aeneid, vii 34, Georgics, iii 243

l 435 For passages in which Milton dwells on the song of the nightingale see II Pensive 61, Sonnet 1, Comus 234, Paradise Lost, iii 38 iv 602, 648, 771 v 40, viii 514

l 437 'The birds never looked so beautiful since they left Paradise' (Landor)

l 439 *mantling*,—a term in falconry 'when the hawk stretcheth one of her wings after her leg, and so the other' (Gentleman's Recreation, quoted by Nares)

l 440 *her state* The allusion may be to a barge of state Cf Donne (Progress of the Soul, xxiv) speaking of a swan

'It moved with state, as if to look upon

Low things it scorned

Heriuck has swan-like state'

l 443 *crested cock*—cf 'cristatus ales' of Ovid (Fasti i 455) and

'singing clearer than the crested bird

That claps his wings at dawn' (Tennyson)

clayton,—cf Shakespeare (Hamlet i i)

The cock that is the trumpet to the morn'

l 454 *teem*,—pour forth (Saxon *tyman*) Cf Rosse's speech,

Each minute teems a new one'

(Macbeth, iv 3)

l 457 *lair*,—layer, bed (Germ *lager*)

wonns,—dwells (A S *wunian*) Cf Fairfax's Tasso xvi 67

'A thousand devils in Limbo deep that wonne'

l 462 *at once*,—cf Wordsworth

'There are forty feeding like one

broad herds is a literal translation from Iliad, xi 679 Virgil has 'longum agmen' (Aeneid, i 186)

l 467 *libbard*,—leopard This form is used by Spenser (Faery Queene, I vi 25, II iii 28)

l 471 Job xl 15 *Behemoth* here is the elephant, in Job it is the hippopotamus of the Nile

l 476 *limber*—(connected with 'lump') pliant It is applied to an oar in a passage quoted in Latham's edition of Johnson's Dictionary

fans,—wings, like 'vans' in ii 927

l 477 *deckt* is a verb They decked their smallest (i e very small) bodies exact (i e exactly) with various hues

l 478 Cf 'In pride of May the fields are gay'
(Old Song, Percy Society Collection, vol xiii)

l 482 *minims*,—very small things (*minima*)

serpent—a more general word than the following 'snaky, embracing all creeping things

l 484 *add'd*—active for passive, as in ix 515, where a ship is said to 'steer and 'shift her sail'

l 485 Horace, Satires, i i 35, Virgil, Georgics, iv 83

l 487 *just equality* Milton had expanded this hint in his Ready Way

l 490 The working bees are *males*, The drone here meant is the queen bee

l 496 Virgil gives a mane to serpents (Aeneid ii 206)

l 505 Ovid Metamorphoses, i 76, &c

l 535 Cf 2 Esdras iii 6 And thou leddest him into Paradise, which thy right hand had planted

l 548 Plato represents the Creator as surveying his work and delighting in it, because it resembles the pattern he had worked from

l 563 *station* The 'station of a planet is a term of art, when the planet appears neither to go backwards nor forwards, but to keep the same place in its orbit

l 565 Psalm xxiv 7

l 577 Ovid, Metamorphoses, i 168

l 579 See on line 619

l 581 Cf Sylvester

'Powder'd with stars streaming with glorious light

l 585 Isaiah vi i

l 596 'Laudate eum hydraulis et organo' (Translation of Tremellius and Junius) Vide note on line 335

l 597 *frets* are the divisions by which the strings of a guitar or violin are lengthened or shortened at will Cf (Taming of the Shrew, ii i)

'I did but tell her she mistook her frets,

And bow'd her hand to teach her fingering'

l 598 *temper'd*,—modulated So in Spenser, Shepherd's Calendar, June
'Birds of every kind

To the waters fall their tunes attemper'd right'

l 599 Rev viii 3, 4

l 605 *giant*,—with an allusion to the Titanic contest The word is used to express the fierce malevolence attributed to such beings So in Isabella's speech (Measure for Measure, ii 3) this quality is taken for granted, as if implied in the word itself

l 619 *hyaline* (like 'galaxy' in line 579) is followed immediately by its translation See note to line 269

l 624 *neither*—the ocean that went round her, according to ancient cosmology, as opposed to 'hyaline' (Keightley)

l 628 Psalm viii 6-8

l 631 Georgics, ii 458

l 634 *face of things*,—visible appearance of things

Book VIII

l 1 At this place in the first edition there was the single line

'To whom thus Adam gratefully replied'

In the second edition (when the poem was in twelve books, the seventh and tenth being divided) this line was changed into the four that now begin Bk viii

l 2 Cf Iliad, ii 41 Dante (Purgatorio, ii 113) hears his friend Casella's voice

'Of which the sweetness still within me sounds'

l 3 *stood*,—l e continued (like Ital *stava*) (Richardson)

l 15 Cf 'this goodly frame, the earth' (Hamlet ii 2) Psalm viii 3

* l 19 Psalm cxlvii 4 *numbered* may refer to this text, but is more probably = 'numerous,' as at vii 621

l 23 *punctual*,—l e no bigger than a point (punctum) Cf Comus 5

l 61 *pomp*,—train (πομπή) See note on L'Allegro 127

l 70 *this to attain* The clause is ambiguous 'This' may refer either to the knowledge previously spoken of, or to that of the point in dispute between the followers of Ptolemy and those of Copernicus

l 76 Cf Bacon (Advancement of Learning, ii) 'As for the vertical point (of natural philosophy) *opus quod operatur Deus a principio usque ad finem* (Eccles iii 11) we know not whether man's inquiry can attain unto it' In the Vulgate (here quoted) the words immediately preceding are 'mundum tradidit disputationi eorum'

l 77 Cf the passage from Bacon, quoted in note to vii 8 Landor objects 'I cannot well entertain this notion of the Creator's risible faculties Milton here carries his anthropomorphism much farther than the poem (which needed a good deal of it) required'

l 83 Among the exploded theories of astronomy mentioned by Bacon in his De Augmentis Scientiarum (iii 4), is that of the motion of the heavenly bodies in perfect circles To explain their apparent irregularities and preserve the hypothesis of a circular motion, the astronomers invented eccentrics and epicycles 'The epicycle, according to Clavius, is a small orb immersed in the deferent orb in which the planet is borne For the body of the planet is fixed in the epicycle, while the centre of the epicycle is continually carried along according to the motion of the eccentric or deferent orb' (Keightley) Cf also the passage in the Advancement of Learning, ii 'The same phenomena in astronomy are satisfied by the received astronomy of the diurnal motion and the proper motion of the planets with their eccentrics and epicycles, and likewise by the theory of Copernicus, and the calculations are indifferently agreeable to both'

l 122 The angel now expounds the Copernican, as Adam had set forth the Ptolemaic system

l 130 *Three different motions* —(1) diurnal, (2) annual, (3) that of libration, by which the earth's axis is always parallel to itself If the earth have not (1) the heaven must revolve around her, if she have not (2) the sun must journey annually round the ecliptic, and if she have not (3) that motion must be ascribed to the *primum mobile*, 'that swift nocturnal rhomb' (Keightley)

l 145 All this is erroneous physics Astronomers, with the aid of the most powerful telescopes, have not been able to discover any traces of either water or atmosphere in the moon (Keightley)

l 148 *other suns*,—Jupiter and Saturn are meant

l 150 *male and female* means 'original and reflected' light Pliny (Natural History ii 100) mentions the tradition that the sun is a masculine star, drying all things, on the contrary, the moon is a soft and feminine star, dissolving humours, and so the balance of Nature is preserved, some of the stars binding the elements, and others loosing them

l 155 *contribute* —with the accent on the first syllable, as in May's Edward III (1635)

'Their several shares of woe

Must contribute to Philip's overthrow'

l 157 *this habitable*,—the earth (*οικουμένη*), adjective for substantive—a frequent use in Milton Cf vi 78 'this terrene'

l 158 *obvious*,—exposed to, as in Aeneid, x 694 Cf note on x 106

l 162 *flaming*,—applying to the road an epithet meant of the sun Cf the 'pale course' of the moon in i 786

l 164 The metaphor is from a top, as in Aeneid, vii 378

l 165 *inoffensive*,—meeting no obstacle Tacitus uses 'inoffensus for uninterrupted 'inoffensus cursus honorum (Historiarum, i 48)

l 183 Cf Samson Agonistes 300–306

l 193 Shadowed from a verse in Homer (Odyssey, iv 392), much admired and recommended by Socrates (Bentley)

l 211 Odyssey iv 594–598, Virgil Eclogues, v 45–48

l 212 *pleasantest to thirst* Hume says that there is one kind of palm (the Egyptian) which was called *ἄδύφος*, from its juicy fruit

l 216 Psalm cxix 103

l 218 Psalm xlv 3 (Prayer-book version)

l 225 Rev xxii 9

l 238 Cf Sonnet xv 11, 12

l 242 Aeneid vi 557 Ariosto has represented Astolfo as hearing from within the gates of Hell the noise of

'Plaint and howl, and everlasting wail'

(Orlando Furioso, xxxiv 4)

l 258 *gazed*—cf v 272, Paradise Regained, i 414 Elsewhere Milton has 'gazed on' (Paradise Lost, xi 845) or 'upon' (Comus 54)

l 269 The first edition has 'as lively vigour led'

l 281 Acts xvii 28

l 287 Odyssey, xiii 79

l 292 Iliad ii 16 20

l 295 The idea of thus seeing in a dream what was really taking place seems to have been suggested by the dream of Aeacus in Ovid (Metamorphoses, vii 634) So Dante (Purgatorio, ix) dreams that he is carried up by an eagle, and on awaking, finds that he had in reality been carried up a part of the mountain of Purgatory during his sleep

l 302 In Sylvester's Du Bartas, there is the line

'Tis not a dance, but rather a smooth gliding

Cf xii 620

l 320 Bentley's objection that 'dress' should be used here (as in Gen 11 15) because the common earth was 'tilled' after the Fall (Gen 11 23), is answered by the fact that the same Hebrew word is used in both places. The Septuagint translation is *εργάζεσθαι*, and the Vulgate 'operari', that of Junius, 'ad colendum'

l 335 Cf x 779

l 337 *purpose* — conversation (propos) (Keightley) Cf Much Ado about Nothing, 11 1, 'listen our purpose,' and Spenser (Faery Queene, IV vi 45),
'And by the way she sundry purpose found
Of this and that'

l 353 'Adam had the wisdom given him to know all creatures and to name them according to their properties' Cf Bacon's words (Advancement of Learning, 1) 'The pure knowledge of nature and universality, by the light whereof man did give names unto other creatures in Paradise, according to their properties' 'The two summary parts of knowledge,' Bacon elsewhere asserts are 'the view of creatures, and the imposition of names'

l 356 Acts xxvi 19

l 379 Gen xviii 30

l 387 The stretched (intense) musical string cannot make harmony with one that is slack (remiss)

l 407 Horace, Odes, 1 12 18

l 413 Rom xi 33

l 414 *of things*,—like the 'pulcherrime rerum' of Ovid (Metamorphoses, viii 49) (Keightley)

l 421 *absolute*,—'omnibus numeris absolutus' is here literally translated Perfection and completeness in all parts is meant Ben Jonson has used the same expression in the inscription of his poem on Venetian Digby Landor stigmatizes it as a pedantic, quibbling Latinism, which our language has never admitted' Yet 'absolute Marina' is found in Pericles iv Prologue, and Ben Jonson has it frequently

l 422 *His single imperfection*,—the imperfection of him when single

l 453 Dan x 17

l 460, Numb xxiv 4 The commentators on this text regard the 'eyes' as those of the mind

l 466 *cordial* —nearest the heart, because some divines held the rib to have been taken from the left side

l 478 Cf Sonnet xviii, last line

l 488 Parallels to this beautiful line are found in Troilus and Cressida (iv 4),

'The lustre in your eye, Heaven in your cheek,'
and in Antony and Cleopatra (1 3),

'Eternity was in our lips and eyes'

The very phrase 'Heaven is in your eyes' occurs in Beaumont and Fletcher (Philaster, 11 1) Keightley quotes from Chaucer,

'And Paradise was formed in her eye'

l 489 Keightley quotes

'Illam quidquid agit, quoquo vestigia movet,
Componit furtim subsequiturque Decor'

(Tibullus, iv 2 7)

- l 494 *Nor envious*,—unlike the Greek gods who envied man's happiness
 l 498 'Adhaerebit uxori suae' is the rendering of the Vulgate and of

Junius

- l 500 *divinely* —from heaven (Lat *divinitus*)
 l 502 *conscience*,—consciousness (*conscientia*) so used in our translation
 of Heb x 2

- l 503 Helena says (*Midsummer Night's Dream*, II 1)
 'We should be woo'd, and were not made to woo'

- l 511 *Cant vi 10*

- l 519 Cf 'Vesper adest, juvenes, consurgite, Vesper Olympo
 Expectata diu, vix tandem lumina tollit'

(Catullus, lxii)

Cf also Spenser (*Epithal* 285)

- 'Long though it be, at last I see it gloome
 And the bright evening star with golden creast
 Arise out of the East

And Ben Jonson, in his *Hue and Cry* after Cupid (a nuptial mask), has a song with the burden

- 'Shine, Hesperus, shine forth, thou wished star'

The appearance of the evening star was the signal for lighting the torches to conduct the bride to her new home (Cf xi 589) Milton (*Doctrine of Divorce* 1 3) speaks feelingly of the evil consequences of marriage when 'sober men from inexperience haste too eagerly to light the nuptial torch'

- l 537 Cf *Samson Agonistes* 1025 et seq

- l 547 *absolute*,—perfect, as in l 421

- l 556 *occasionally*—supplementally But God had from the first intended to create Eve Cf line 444

- l 568 *Ephes v 28, 29, 1 Pet iii 7*

- l 576 *adorn*,—an adjective made from a participle, like the Italian *adorno* (from *adornato*) Spenser uses it as a substantive (*Faery Queene* III xii 20)

- 'Without adorne of gold or silver bright'

- l 578 *art seen* —'art' (*videns*) as in *Sonnet iv 3*, and *Bk ix 508, 546*
 So 'to be known' is used for 'to be' (*iv 836*)

- l 583 *divulg'd*—made common See note on *Arcades 6*

- l 589 Cf 'Nature is fine in love' (*Hamlet*, iv 5) Spenser, in his *Hymn to Love*, writes

- 'Such is the power of that sweet passion
 That it all sordid baseness doth expel,
 And the refined mind doth newly fashion
 Unto a fairer form

King Arthur (in Tennyson's *Guinevere*)

'knew

- Of no more subtle master under heaven
 Than is the maiden passion for a maid,
 Not only to keep down the base in man,
 But teach high thought, and amiable words,
 And courtliness, and the desire of fame,
 And love of truth, and all that makes a man.'

- l 591 *scale*,—ladder, as in v 509
 l 598 *genial bed*,—the 'lectus genialis' of Horace (Epistles i i 87)
 l 601 *decencies*,—comely acts 'Decent is always used in Milton's poems in its primary sense of 'comely, 'befitting' Il Penseroso 36, and Paradise Lost, iii 644
 l 608 *foiled*,—defeated, as in ii 330
 l 610 The reverse of the hackneyed 'video meliora of Medea (Ovid, Metamorphoses, vii 20)
 l 632 *Hesperian* —i e in the west
 to depart —cf v 376
 l 634 i John v 3
 l 635 *passion*,—i e his affection for Eve
 l 636 *else*, —i e if not so swayed
 l 637 Aeneid, xii 59
 l 645 *since to part*,—since you are about to depart 'Part' is used for 'depart in Comus 56, and Samson Agonistes 1447
 l 652 Iliad, i 531-533

Book IX

- l 2 Exod xxxiii 11
 l 11 Cf xi 627
 l 12 Cf x 249
 l 14 In allusion to the subjects of the Iliad, Odyssey, and Aeneid Neptune persecuted Ulysses, and Juno Aeneas
 l 21 Cf vii 1
 l 26 In Milton's extant MSS are many sketches for dramatic poems on Scripture subjects In his youth he had proposed to write an epic on the theme of King Arthur Aubrey asserts that Paradise Lost was begun about two years before the Restoration
 l 33 *races and games* are described in Iliad xxiii and Aeneid v, *tilting* by the Italian poets and by Spenser
 l 35 *Impreses*,—(Ital *impresa*) the devices and emblems on the shield, sometimes so enigmatical that they were 'not to be understood, as Sir Henry Wotton remarks of the impreses of a tournament at court They usually conveyed an allusion to the name, nature, or fortune of the wearer
 l 36 *Bases*,—the mantle, hanging from the middle to the knees or lower, worn by knights on horseback Radegund compels the captive Artegall to put on an apron and petticoat instead of cuirass and bases (Faery Queene, V v 20)
 l 37 The 'marshal set the guests in order of rank, the *sewer* placed the dishes on the table, his office being to 'sew,' 'assay,' or taste (Another derivation of 'sewer' is from 'asseoir, to set down) The *seneschal* appears to have been the senior servant, the major-domo
 l 39 *the skill*,—i e the result of it, like the 'hand of Eve,' l 438
 l 44 Cf the passage in Reason of Church Government, Bk ii 'If to the instinct of nature, and the imboldening of art, aught may be trusted, and that there be nothing adverse in our climate, or the fate of this age, it haply would be no rashness, from an equal diligence and inclination, to present the like offer in our own ancient stories' Milton is here speaking of his choice

of a theme, 'to be left so written to after-times, as they should not willingly let it die'

l 56 *maugre*,—in spite of (*malgré*), frequent in Spenser, occurring some times in Shakespeare (*Lear*, v 3)

l 58 *Job* i 7

l 63 The meaning is, for the space of an entire week he compassed the earth, three days from east to west going round with night, or parallel to the equinoctial line, and four days at right angles to it, from north to south. The *colures* are two great circles, of which the one called the solstitial colure passes through the poles of the ecliptic and the equinoctial, the other, named the equinoctial colure, is a meridian drawn through the equinoxes. By *traversing*, then, is meant 'going along'. Cf l 434 (*Keightley*). Newton takes *traverse* in its usual sense of 'crossing'. 'As Satan was, moving from pole to pole at the same time that the car of night was moving from east to west, if he would keep in the shade of night as he desired, he could not move in a straight line, but must move obliquely, and thereby cross the two colures'

l 77 Leaving the garden on the east (iv 861), he turned northwards to the Euxine Sea and *Palus Moeotis*, and then went up along the river *Ob*. He then went probably down to the other side of the globe, as far south as the Line, and, as we are to suppose, back to the *Orontes* in Syria whence he went westwards to the *Isthmus of Danen*, and so round by India and back to Eden (*Keightley*)

l 80 *Job xxxvii* 10

l 82 *orb* for 'world' (*orbis terrarum*) So used by the Clown in *Twelfth Night*, iii 1

l 86 *Landor* censures these lines as 'some of the dullest in Milton'. He somewhat captiously objects 'Who could suspect the serpent? or know anything about his wit and subtlety? He had been created but a few days, "diabolic" power had taken as yet no such direction, and the serpent was so obscure a brute, that Satan himself scarcely knew where to find him. And why had the snake so bad a character? He was "not recent yet," "fearless unfear'd he slept." These are the contradictions of a dreamer but how fresh and vigorous Milton arises the next moment!'

l 89 *imp*—from *impan*, to graft 'whereon to graft decent'. In Shakespeare the word, as an appellation, never bears a bad sense. Its primary meaning is 'child, scion' (which latter word is properly a *cutting* from a tree)

l 99 *Cf v 574

l 121 *siege*,—seat (*siège*), as in the 'siege of justice' (*Measure for Measure*, iv 2). The 'siege' of a town is the 'sitting down' before it

l 130 *him destroyed*. This version of the ablative absolute occurs also in vii 142, *Samson Agonistes* 463. But in general Milton observes the usual English form of taking the nominative for the case absolute

l 146 *if they at least*,—Cf v 859

l 156 *Psalm civ* 4

l 157 *Psalm xci* 11

l 166 Cf *Comus* 468

l 170 *obnoxious*,—exposed to, '*obnoxius fortunae*' (*Tacitus, Historiarum*, ii 75)

l 176 *son of despite*,—as the wicked are termed 'sons of Belial', valiant men, 'sons of courage', wild beasts, 'sons of pride' (Deut xiii 13, 2 Sam ii 7, Job xli 34)

l 178 So Prometheus (Aeschylus, Prometheus Vincit 970) holds it right 'to scorn the scornful'

l 187 *Iliad*, xvii 210

l 218 The original meaning of 'spring' (whence 'sprig') was 'shoot, rod' It was then used chiefly, if not solely, by the poets for 'coppice,' 'grove, or 'wood' (Keightley)

l 240 In the song in Merchant of Venice (iii 2) Fancy (i e Love) is said to be 'by gazing fed'

l 245 *wilderness*,—for 'wildness,' as

'For such a warped ship of wilderness

Ne er issu'd from his blood' (Measure for Measure, iii 1)

l 249 Cf Paradise Regained, i 302

l 278 *Just then* Eve is speaking of the visit of the angel a week back

l 291 *entire*—the '*integer vitae scelerisque purus*' of Horace (Odes i 22 1)

l 312 Here the ordinary form is used for the case absolute See line 130, note

l 320 *less*—i e too little, a Latinism Spenser also has this use of the comparative, e g 'thy weaker novice' (Faery Queene I Introduction)

l 328 *affront*,—meet face to face (affronter)

l 353 *erect*—on her feet the Italian 'all' erta' (i e all' eretta), alert The metaphor is military (Keightley)

l 387 *Oread or Dryad*,—nymph of the mountain or of the grove

l 390 Cf Faery Queene I vi 16

l 392 *Guiltless of fire* Fire was unknown on earth before the Fall according to Milton (cf v 396, and x 1070) We have here a hint of the Puritan feeling that art sprang from the corruption of human nature—a notion put forward still more forcibly in Paradise Regained, iv, where the highest sanction is claimed for it It is true that we hear of palaces in heaven (Paradise Lost, i 732), but we are immediately informed of the fate of their architect But he is careful to vindicate the celestial origin of music

l 395 The classic poets make the gods pass from youth to age, 'sed cruda deo viridisque senectus' (Aeneid, vi 304)

l 396 *virgin of* is a French and Italian idiom (Keightley)

l 398 *Delia's self*,—i e Diana, from her birthplace Delos

l 402 *And all things*,—i e and (to have) all things, &c

l 404 Cf *Iliad*, xvii 497, *Aeneid*, x 501

l 410 Here and at l 420, Keightley believes that Milton dictated 'and' for the 'or' of the received text

l 426 Bentley proposed to read 'blushing' for the 'bushing' of the early editions

l 431 Cf iv 269

l 437 *arborets*,—a word used by Spenser (Faery Queene, II vi 12) 'Arboretum' is a form of 'arbustum,' a shrubbery

l 439 The *gardens of Adonis*, frequently mentioned by Greek writers, were the little earthen pots, with lettuce and fennel growing in them, carried

at his festival (Bentley) Pliny, however, names the gardens of Adonis with those of the Hesperides and Alcinous Spenser (Faery Queene, III vi) describes them,

‘as the first seminary
Of all things that are born to live and die
According to their kinds’

1 450 *tedded* grass is grass just mown and spread for drying (A S *getead*, prepared) Latham adduces the Prov Germ *zetten* as a kindred word

1 453 Cf Faery Queene, II vi 24

1 462 A similar repetition to that of *fierceness* and *fierce* occurs in Aeneid, 1 669

1 468 *in mud Heav'n*,—perhaps with allusion to Job 1 6, 11 1

1 471 See note on 1 528

1 473 Cf Arcades 68

1 496 *indented* Metaphor from the teeth of a saw, applied by Shakespeare (As You Like It, iv 3) to the movement of a snake

1 505 *chang'd*,—transformed, i e ‘the forms that changed Cadmus and Hermione (Newton) Todd would place a comma after ‘chang'd,’ and understands that word as = ‘underwent a change’

1 506 Keightley was the first to remark that ‘Hermione’ should be ‘Harmonia’

1 507 Olympias was the mother of Alexander the Great Cf note on Nativity 203 Dryden has the same allusion in the second stanza of Alexander's Feast

1 510 Scipio Africanus is here meant Cf the ‘top of eloquence,’ Paradise Regained, iv 354

1 522 Cf Ovid, Metamorphoses, xiv 45, 46

1 549 Cf Paradise Regained, iv 4, 5, Comus 161 The invitation in line 732 may be compared with that of Comus to the Lady, ‘Be wise, and taste’ (l 813)

1 563 *speakeable*,—not ‘may be spoken,’ but ‘able to speak’ Horace thus uses ‘*illachrymabilis*’ as passive (Odes, iv 9 26), and as active (Odes, ii 14 6) ‘Since the time of Milton, there has been a decided tendency to diminish the number of words with a Saxon root and a French termination’ (Marsh)

1 581 Serpents were supposed to delight in fennel (Pliny, Natural History, xix 56), and to suck the teats of ewes and goats

1 612 *Universal dame*,—Lady of the universe (‘dame’ from Lat ‘*domina*’)

1 613 *spirited*,—inspired, possessed (Ital *spirare*) Cf iii 717

1 631 Cf Georgics, ii 153

1 634 This account is bad physics The *ignis fatuus*, which is of very rare appearance, is supposed to be produced by a luminous insect (Keightley) But Newton, in his Optics, remarks that ‘vapours arising from putrified waters are usually called *ignes fatui*’ More modern authorities hold that ‘the appearance is produced by the decomposition of animal or vegetable matter, or by the evolution of gases which spontaneously ignite in the atmosphere’

1 640 Cf L Allegro 104, and the gambols of Puck (Midsummer Night's Dream, ii 1)

- 1 643 *fraud*,—cf vii 143, note
- 1 644 *tree Of prohibition* is a Hebraism for 'prohibited tree,' as is 'daughter of his voice' at line 653
- 1 653 *the rest*—as for the rest, a usual idiom in Greek and Latin (e.g. *cætera Graus*, *Aeneid*, iii 594)
- 1 654 *Rom* ii 14
- 1 668 *fluctuates*,—moves to and fro
- 1 672 *since mute*,—i.e. as has never since been heard, excluding even the debates of the Long Parliament (Keightley)
- 1 675 *Sometimes in English began*,—like Cicero in his first oration against Catiline
- 1 702 *your fear itself*,—i.e. your belief in God's justice removes the fear of death, since death implies that He is unjust
- 1 714 *put on gods*,—a reminiscence of the Scriptural 'put on incorruption' (2 Cor xv 53)
- 1 729 *can envy dwell*,—cf *Aeneid*, i 11
- 1 732 *humane*—i.e. human. The differing sense attached to each form is of modern use
- 1 736 *Of Iliad*, ii 41
- 1 742 *inclinable*,—inclining, like 'oceanodissociabilis' (Horace, *Odes*, i 3 22)
- 1 771 *aubor*,—adviser. 'Mihique ut absim, vehementer auctor est' (Cicero ad Atticum, xv 5)
- 1 790 Eve thus falls into the very temptation by which Satan himself fell, by aspiring to be like God in knowledge, as he had aspired to be like Him in power (Cf Bacon *Advancement of Learning*, ii comment on Isaiah xiv 14)
- 1 792 *eating death*,—a Grecism imitated from Virgil, 'sensit medios delapsus in hostes,' for 'se delapsus esse' (*Aeneid*, ii 377)
- 1 793 *boon*,—gay, as in 'boon companion' (From Lat. *bonus*)
- 1 795 *precious*—positive for superlative, as in *Iliad*, v 381, *Aeneid*, iv 576. Keightley remarks that it is also a Hebraism. Lander admires the 'wonderful skill with which Eve, after the Fall, is represented as decentful and audacious, as ceasing to fear, and almost as ceasing to reverence, the Creator, and shuddering not at extinction itself, till she thinks of "Adam wedded to another Eve"'
- 1 800 *Not without song*,—cf. the 'non sine floribus' of Horace (*Odes*, iii 13 2)
- 1 811 *Psalm xciv 7*, *Job xxii 12-14*
- 1 815 *safe*,—i.e. as regards any danger from him. The word is thus used in Shakespeare by Miranda (*Tempest*, iii 1), and by Henry IV (Richard II, v 3) when threatening Aumerle
- 1 823 The Knight in Chaucer (*Wife of Bath's Tale*) is required, on pain of death, to tell what is that which women most desire. His answer, and the right one, is, 'Women desiren to have soveraynte'
- 1 829 *I extirpat*,—nominative absolute. See note on l 130
- 1 832 Newton remarks that this passage is stronger and more pathetic than the declaration of Lydia (*Horace*, *Odes*, iii 9 24)
- 1 835 *Idolatry* is made the first result of eating the forbidden fruit
- 1 837 *sciential*,—possessing and giving knowledge (Lat. *scientialis*)

l 838 Andromache is thus described as amusing herself, and awaiting the return of Hector, not knowing that he had been slain (Iliad, xxii 440)

l 847 *divine of*,—foreboding Cf 'praesaga mali mens' (Aeneid, x 843), and Horace, Odes, iii 27 10

l 851 Cf Virgil, Eclogues, ii 51, Georgics, iv 415

l 853 The original editions have 'to,' which Newton and Todd altered to 'too' I have printed 'excuse' with a capital, as I believe that a personification is intended *Prologue* and *apology* are connected in Romeo and Juliet, i 4

l 888 The words in this line are so arranged as to necessitate an effective pause after 'Adam'

l 890 Aeneid, ii 120, xii 951

l 892 So Cymoent in Spenser, hearing of the misfortunes of her sor, flings away the garlands she had been making (Faery Queene, III iv 30)

l 893 It is noteworthy that the roses had already faded

l 901, *devote*,—the 'devota morti' of Horace (Odes, iv 14 18)

l 908 A reminiscence of the speech of Admetus to Alcestis (Euripides, Alcestis 278)

l 923 *coveting to eye* —to eye with desire, covetously

l 947 Cf Deut xxxii 27

l 953 *certain*,—for 'resolved' ('certus eundi,' Aeneid, iv 554)

l 980 *oblige* here means to render obnoxious to guilt or punishment, as in Horace, Odes, ii 8 5

l 989 *to ibe winds*,—a quasi-proverbial expression (Horace, Odes, i 26 1-3)

l 998 Milton follows St Paul, 'Adam was not deceived' (1 Tim ii 14)

l 1019 *savour*,—applied in Latin to the understanding as well as to the palate, as in Cicero, 'nec enim sequitur, ut cui cor sapiat, ei non sapiat palatum' (De Finibus, ii 8)

l 1052 *unrest*,—want of rest, unhappiness The word is so used by Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet, i 5)

l 1057 Shame covered them, with his robe, but in so doing, discovered to them their nakedness 'Clothed with shame' occurs in Psalm 29 Cf Samson Agonistes 841

l 1068 *worm* is used as equivalent to 'serpent' in Macbeth, iii. 4.

l 1086 Cf Arcades 80, and Faery Queene, I i 7

l 1088 Cf Rev vi 16, 17

l 1101 This description of the fig-tree is taken from Gerard's Herball (1633) It accurately applies to the banian tree, with this exception, that the leaves of the banian are the smallest of the forest kind Milton was led into the error by the name, the Portuguese calling the banian the fig tree, from the resemblance of its fruit.

l 1111 *Amazonian targe*,—a light semicircular shield (πελτη)

l 1140 Refer to line 335

l 1144 Iliad, i 552, xiv 83

l 1166 A reminiscence of the speech of Alcestis, telling her husband that she might have lived, but preferred death for his sake (Euripides, Alcestis 282, &c)

l 1183 Milton's editions have *woman*. Bentley read 'woman,' justifying

it by the following 'her' But besides that such a transition is not unusual (as Newton observes), there may be here also that generalisation and reference to times long after the Fall, which are observable in other passages

Book X

l 9 Ephes vi 13

l 16 *manifold*,—divines having reckoned many sins as included in that of Adam, who, offending in one point, was guilty of all

l 23 Shakespeare has this idea of the angels weeping at the folly of man, in a well-known passage in Measure for Measure (ii 2)

l 37 *sincerest*,—most perfect Cf ix 320, Paradise Regained, ii 480

l 40 Cf iii 86-96

~l 45 *moment*,—see vi 239, note

l 51 Eccles viii 11

l 56 John v 22

l 59 Psalm lxxxv 10

l 66 Heb i 3

l 68 John iv 34 Cf Aeneid, i 76

l 74 Cf iii 236

l 76 *Of right*,—i e 'As I have undertaken to bear the whole penalty, I have a right to make their share of it as light as I please' their doom being *derived* (diverted from its old channel, *rius*) on me (Keightley) *

l 84 The meaning of this line is obscure when taken in connexion with line 164 Keightley understands it 'the serpent's part in the matter is so plain as to require no proof'

l 106 *obvious*,—coming to meet (Lat *obvius*) Cf viii 504, xi 374, and Aeneid, iii 499

l 145 An expostulation perhaps suggested by Gen xxx 2, 2 Kings v 7

l 151 Cf viii 568, 570

l 155, *part and person*,—terms borrowed from the stage 'persona' in its sense of 'character,' 'part in a play' Cicero uses both the words in this sense in his oration Pro Muraena So Milton 'If it were an honour to that person which he (Caesar) maintained' (History of England, ii)

l 157 *in few*,—i e words, a common Greek and Latin ellipsis So in 2 Henry IV i 1

'In few, his death, whose spirit lent a fire,' &c

l 169 As man did not know the serpent to have been the instrument of Satan, and as the knowledge was not necessary then, the sentence was pronounced in such terms as, to man's apprehension, applied only to the serpent

l 184 Allusions are made in this passage to the following texts—Luke x 18, Eph. ii 2, Col ii 15, Ps lxxviii 18, Eph iv 8, and Rom xvi 20

l 214 Phil ii 7

l 215 John xiii 5

l 218 Because some commentators thought that the beasts shed their coats for the purpose

l 219 Rom v 10

l 222 Isaiah lxi 10

l 230 *counternew*,—from Fr, *contredanse* (We have 'country-dance' from 'contre danse')

l 246 *sympathy* Sir Kenelm Digby professed to cure wounds by sympathy, i.e. by the treatment either of the sword that had inflicted them, or anything whereon the blood from the patient had fallen. Several of Digby's works on physical subjects were published between 1644 and 1655.

l 249 *my shade*,—perhaps with allusion to the classical 'umbra,' an uninvited guest (Horace Satires, ii 8 22)

l 260 *intercourse*,—from frequent passage backward and forward

l 261 *transmigration*,—for quitting Hell altogether for Earth

l 273 Lucan has a description of the ravenous birds that followed the Roman camp, and scented the battle of Pharsalia (vii 831), which may have suggested the simile. Todd quotes from Beaumont and Fletcher (Beggars Bush)

"Tis said of vultures

They scent a field fought, and do smell the carcasses
By many hundred miles'

l 279 *Feature*—i.e. form, the two words are often coupled in Shakespeare, 'feature' (from Ital *fattura*), 'what is made,' thus almost synonymous with 'creature'

l 280 *murky*—dark (A S *murc*) 'Mirk' is a north-country word for darkness. Cf 'Hell is murky' (Macbeth, v 1)

l 281 *sagacious*,—quick of scent 'Sagire enim, sentire acute est, ex quo sagaces dicti canes' (Cicero, de Divinatione, i 4) Keightley observes that 'quarry' is incorrectly used here, for it means the part of the deer given to the hounds (curée), and the chase is not yet begun. The word is, however, generally used for prey, and Richardson derives it from Lat *quaerere*, through Fr *quérir*

l 289 Pliny (Nat Hist iv 16) says that the sea one day's sail from Thule is frozen, and is called Cronian

l 291 *imagined way*,—the north-east passage to the East by the north of Europe and Asia

l 292 *Petsora*—Petchora, a river in the north-east of Russia, falling into the Arctic Ocean

l 294 *mace*,—(from 'massa,' a club) was part of a knight's equipment. Chaucer (Knight's Tale) having enumerated many weapons and kinds of armour worn by different knights at the Athenian tourney, concludes with 'an axe, and eke a mace of steel.' Todd says 'the word was used for sceptre in our old poetry,' and takes that sense of it here. (In Julius Caesar, iv 3, the weapon rather than the sceptre seems intended, from the epithet 'murderous' applied to Slumber)

l 296 *Delos*,—one of the Cyclades. The legend ran that Delos was a floating island till Zeus fastened it with adamantine chains to the bottom of the sea, that Leto might find it a secure asylum wherein she might bring forth Apollo and Artemis

l 297 *Gorgonian rigour*,—like that produced by the Gorgon, who turned to stone all that looked on her

l 304 Cf Matt vii 13, Aeneid, vi 126

l 305 *inoffensive*,—without obstruction, as in viii 164

l 308 *Memnonian* Susa, the residence of the Persian kings, called Memnonia by Herodotus (vii 34).

- l 311 *indignant waves*,—cf Virgil, *Aeneid*, viii 728, *Georgics*, ii 162
- l 313 *Pontifical*,—in its primary sense, 'bridge-making'
- l 320 *in little space*,—1 e with no great interval, reckoning the bridge to Hell, while the stairs (iii 510) connected the World with Heaven (Keightley)
- l 323 Keightley remarks that properly there were but two roads to Heaven and Hell, but Milton seems to reckon the way down to the Earth as a third
- l 328 The Centaur and the Scorpion were six and seven signs in advance of the sun in Aries
- l 329 *His zenith*,—upwards, to the outside of the World
- l 345 *with joy and tidings*,—1 e with joyful tidings Cf *Aeneid*, i 636
- l 368 *our liberty, confin'd*,—1 e the liberty of us, confined Instances of a similar construction are found in iv 129, viii 423, and ix 908
- l 381 Cf ii 1048 On nearer view Heaven is found to be square (Rev xxi 16)
- l 383 *Prince of Darkness*—epithet of Satan in Spenser (*Faery Queene*, III viii 8) and Shakespeare (*All's Well that Ends Well*, iv 5, *King Lear* iii 4), founded on Ephes vi 12
- l 409 *detriment*,—with allusion to the formula by which the consuls were invested with dictatorial power, 'ne quid respublica detrimenta capiat'
- l 412 Newton remarks that Milton in adapting to his own use Ovid's journey of Envy to Athens (*Metamorphoses*, ii 793) has altered Ovid's flowers, herbs, people, and cities blasted by her presence, to stars, planets, and worlds Marino and Tasso describe much the same effects from the passage of Jealousy and Alecto The latter, as she moves, withers the fields and pales the sun (*Jerusalem Liberata*, ix 1)
- l 413 When the aspect of the planets was malign, persons and things were said to be planet-struck This is here said of the planets themselves Cf 'Some planet strike me down!' (*Titus Andronicus*, ii 5), and 'no planet strikes' (*Hamlet*, i 1)
- l 415 *causey*,—causeway, from Fr *chaussée*, and this from Lat *calceata*, 1 e 'via calce strata,' a road made firm with stones or lime (Fr *chaux*).
- l 416 *exclam'd*,—cf Psalm xlii 7
- * l 426 *paragon'd*,—likened, from Fr *paragonner*, to be equal, like It is so used by Shakespeare (*Antony and Cleopatra*, i 5, *Othello*, ii 1)
- l 427 *the grand*,—the grantees, as Tasso uses 'I grandi' (*Jerusalem Liberata*, i 20)
- l 430 *Aeneid*, ix 40
- l 431 The Russians had been extending their dominion eastward, and had advanced as far as Astrakhan They consequently had frequent conflicts with the nomadic tribes (of Tartar or Turkish race) of the extensive eastern plains Persia (in which was included Khorassan, the ancient Bactria) was at this time ruled by the Suffavee family, and hence the word Sophi was used in Europe, like Shah, now to signify the Persian monarch During the sixteenth century there was a continual war between the Persians and the Ottoman Turks, who were masters of Asia Minor and Syria *Tauris*, or *Tebreez*, was the capital of the early Suffavee monarchs, as Erdebil to the east of it had been the original seat of their family Casveen lies south-east of *Tebreez* By the *realm of Aladule* is meant the greater Armenia, whose

last monarch, named Aladule, had been defeated and slain by the Turkish Emperor, Selim I, and the region *beyond* it was the country between it and Tebreez and Casveen (Keightley)

l 438 *reduc'd*—brought back Always in this sense in Shakespeare (Henry V v 11, Richard III 11 2 and v 4)

l 441 Cf *Odyssey*, vii 39, *Aeneid*, i 439

l 445 *state*,—cf note on *Arcades* 81

l 457 *Dwan*,—supreme council of the Turks Satan is called 'Sultan'
in l 348 Keightley remarks that it is properly the raised seat that runs round the wall at the upper end of rooms in the East

l 458 So Caesar, before addressing his soldiers (*Lucan*, *Pharsalia*, i 297)
'*Tumultum*

Composit vultu, dextraeque silentia jussit'

l 460 This line occurs in v 601, 772, 840 Newton remarks that its repetition depends all along on the first use of it, and gives a force and beauty to it, which it would not have without the repetition

l 477 *unoriginal*—without beginning

l 478 Satan here lies to his followers See 11 1008

l 484 *exile*,—here accented on last syllable Shakespeare accentuates the word both as here and in the modern way

l 513 *supplanted*,—tripped up (*supplanto*) Like *reluctant* (struggling), which occurs soon after, it is a gymnastic term

l 514 The transformation of Cadmus (*Ovid*, *Metamorphoses*, iv 575) and that of Cavalcanti in Dante (*Inferno* xxv) were Milton's originals here

l 523 *complicated*,—i e intertwined

l 525 *Hydrus* is the water-snake *Elops* is reckoned among the serpents by Pliny *Dipsas* was so named from the unquenchable thirst (*δίψα*) that was occasioned by its bite

l 527 *Bedropt*,—cf *Ovid*, *Metamorphoses*, iv 618, 619

l 528 *Ophiusa*,—abounding in serpents Several islands were so called The one here meant is probably the smaller Pityusa, off the south coast of Spain

l 529 Rev xii 9

l 546 *Hosea* iv 7 *Exploding*,—condemning, used in the classical sense of hissing an actor from the stage

l 560 *Megara*,—one of the Furies Their hair was serpents,

l 561 Josephus and Mandeville give this tradition of the apples of Sodom, which was rejected by Sandys and Maundrell 'This fruit, when ripe, if it be pressed, explodes, leaving in the hand only the shreds of the rind and a few fibres It is not peculiar to the Dead Sea neighbourhood, being found in Nubia, Arabia, and Persia' (*Kitto's Bible Lands*, quoted by Keightley)

l 565 *gust*,—taste, pleasure, from Ital *gusto*, which Dryden uses in its original form

l 569 *Georgics*, ii 247

l 572 i e Whom they triumphed (over) for having once failed

l 573 Keightley takes 'hiss' as a verb, and 'long' and 'ceaseless' as adverbs

l 575 An idea suggested by Ariosto (*Orlando Furioso*, xliii 98), where Manto and her companions are changed into serpents every seventh day (Keightley)

- l 581 *wide encroaching*,—a translation of Eurynome, applied to Eve
- l 586 Rom vi 6
- l 590 Rev vi 8
- l 599 *ravin*—prey
- l 616 Cf Shakespeare's lines on 'Cæsar's spirit, raging for revenge' (Julius Cæsar, iii 1) Landor, commenting on this passage, regrets 'that most of the worst verses, and much of the foulest language, are put into the mouth of the Almighty'
- l 633 1 Sam xxv 29
- l 643 Rev xv 3, xvi 7
- l 645 *extenuate*,—lessen Cf 'spes nostra extenuatur, et evanescit' (Cicero, Ad Atticum, iii 13 1)
- l 647 *the ages*,—the Millennium Cf xii 549 The new heaven and earth are to *rise* (2 Pet iii 12, 13) or to *descend* (Rev xxi 2)
- l 655 *Decrepit*,—like Spenser's Winter,
'Faint with cold and weak with eld'
(Faery Queene, VII vii 31)
- l 656 *blanc*,—a variation of the usual epithet, pale Cf 'candida luna' (Aeneid, vii 8) and the 'bianca luna' of the Italian poets
- l 659 If a planet were distant from another by a sixth part of the twelve signs, i e by sixty degrees, their aspect was called *sextile*, if they were parted by a fourth, *square*, and if by one half, *opposite* which last is said to be of noxious efficacy, because the planets so opposed were believed to strive to overcome one another, and their antagonism was deemed of evil omen to those born under the weaker star Keightley observes that *conjunction* (i e when two planets were in the same sign and degree) was regarded as an indifferent aspect, the aspects of *trine* and *sextile* being benign, and *quartile* (or square) and *opposition* malign
- l 668 On the supposition that the equator, before the Fall, coincided with the ecliptic, it became necessary to assume that one or the other circle had altered its position If the Ptolemaic system were true, the ecliptic must have been moved, if the Copernican, the equator (Keightley)
- l 670 *sun's axle*,—axis of the ecliptic
- l 673 A poetical mode of saying that the axis of the ecliptic was inclined to that of the equator As the vertical angles were the same, the sun went as far from the equator on the north as on the south (Keightley)
- l 674 *Atlantic sisters*,—the seven daughters of Atlas, the Pleiades seven stars in the constellation Taurus
- Spartan twins*,—Gemini, i e Castor and Pollux, sons of Leda, wife of Tyndareus, king of Sparta
- l 686 *Estonland*,—the modern Greenland Keightley observes that no country is named Magellan
- l 687 *Thyestean*,—i e, made for, not by, Thyestes Cf Horace, Ars Poetica, 91 'Thyestean' is for 'Thyestean,' as 'Chalybean' is for 'Chalybean' in Samson Agonistes 133
- l 696 *Norumbega*,—a province of North America, 'coinciding with the present New England and part of New York'
- Samoueda*—a north-eastern province of Russia
- l 698, *flaw*,—blast of wind (fiatus) Cf 'winter's flaw' (Hamlet, v 1), and

'Like a red morn that ever yet betoken'd
Gust and foul flaws to herdsmen and to herds'
(Venus and Adonis)

1 699 *Boreas*,—the north wind

Cæcias —(*Kaikias*) the north-east wind

1 700 *Thrascias*,—the wind blowing from Thrace, north-north west

1 702 *Notus*,—the south wind

Afer,—the south-west wind Cf Aeneid, 1 85

1 703 *Serrallona* The Lion Mountains (so called from the roaring storms there) are to the south-west of Africa, within a few leagues of Cape Verd The Spanish name is Sierra (de) Leona, the Portuguese, Serra (de) Leoa (Keightley)

Eurus and *Zephyr*,—called also Levant and Ponent (rising and setting), are the east and west winds

Sirocco (ventus Syrus) blows from the south east, and *Libeccio* (ventus Lybicus) from the south-west These winds are so called by the Italian sailors of the Mediterranean (Keightley)

1 718 Isaiah lvii 20 For a 'sea of passion' there is a precedent in Shakespeare's 'sea of troubles' (Hamlet, iii 1), and another in Aeschylus (Prometheus Vinctus 746)

1 719 A metaphor from a ship in a tempest, disburdened to avoid sinking

1 738 *Mine own*,—i e curses

1 740 Milton here follows the notion that elemental bodies seek their determinate place by an impulse of their own, without regard to gravitation

1 741 *Heavy, though in their place* Bodies should not weigh anything at the centre, their weight being only their tendency to the centre (Keightley)

1 743 *from my clay*,—this metaphor is found in Job xxxii 6, Isaiah xlv 9

1 761 Isaiah xlv 10

1 778 Cf xi 536, and Spenser's phrase (Faery Queene, V vii. 9) of the priests of Isis, who

'On their mother Earth's dear lap did lie'

1 780 Job xxxvii 5

1 783 Cf non omnis moriar' of Horace (Odes, iii 30 6)

1 788 Cf Samson Agonistes 100

1 800 Cf a passage in Jeremy Taylor's Treatise on the Real Presence (xi 5) 'But there is an impossibility which is absolute, which God cannot do, therefore [i e for that very reason] because he is Almighty, for to do that were impotency and want of power, as God cannot lie, he cannot be deceived, he cannot be mocked, he cannot die, he cannot deny himself or act unjustly'

1 806 According to the axiom of the schools, 'Omne efficiens agit secundum vires recipientis, non suas'

1 808 *sphere*,—i e of their operation, their power

1 816 *Am found*,—cf 'thou and I am one' (As You Like It, 1 3)

1 817 Cf 'O thou Adam, what hast thou done? for though it was thou that sinned, thou art not fallen alone, but we all that come of thee' (2 Esdras vii 48)

l 832 *me, me only*,—cf Aeneid, ix 427

l 840 *future* The only instance in Milton of this accentuation of the second syllable in this word Newton gives one from Fairfax's Translation of Tasso

l 845 Cf the lamentations of Constance (King John, iii 4) and Cleopatra (Antony and Cleopatra, v 2) A classical precedent has been found in Sophocles (Philoctetes 786, &c)

l 846 From a comparison of previous passages (lines 329, 341, 651-5) it appears that this was some other night than that immediately after the Fall

l 859 *slowest*,—very slow Cf 'pede Pæna claudo' (Horace, Odes, iii 2 32)

l 861 Cf v 202, Virgil, Eclogues, i 5

l 872 *pretended*,—as in Latin, held up or before, i e masking fraud

l 887 'Some writers hold that Adam had had thirteen ribs on the left side, and that from the supernumerary rib Eve was made' (Newton).

l 888 Hippolytus expostulates with Zeus to the same effect (Euripides, Hippolytus 616), and Posthumus in Cymbeline (ii 5) holds similar language

l 898 *for eiber*, &c,—cf Lysander's lament on the 'course of true love' (Midsummer Night's Dream, i 1)

l 905 Keightley thinks that Milton had in view his own courtship of Miss Davies He certainly bore in mind the scene that ended it See p xi of Life

l 914 Eve's appeal and action have been thought to resemble those of Philoctetes in Sophocles (485, &c), when imploring Neoptolemus not to forsake him

l 921 *forlorn*,—utterly forsaken, lost (verloren) Cf

'Like a forlorn and desperate castaway'

(Titus Andronicus, v 3)

l 931 Psalm li 4

l 936 The repetition resembles that in iii 236, and in Abigail's speech (1 Sam xxv 24)

l 953 *that place*,—of judgment Cf 932

l 978 *As in our evils*,—considering our evil plight Cf 'ut in tantis malis' (Cicero, Epist Fam xii 2) An exactly similar use of 'as' occurs in Juliet's soliloquy (iv 3), 'As in a vault'

l 981 *and miserable it is*,—with these words begin a parenthesis ending at *monster* in line 986

l 1000 *make short* —i e work (Keightley)

l 1007 Aeneid, iv 499, 645

l 1066 *shattering*,—cf Lycidas 4

graceful locks,—cf vii 323, note

l 1071 *sere*,—cf Lycidas 2

fontent,—cherish (from foveo, fovimentum, fomentum) Cf Aeneid, i

175, 276

l 1072 Cf 'Fulmen detulit in terras mortalibus ignem'

(Lucretius, v 1091)

l 1075 *Tine*,—kindle (A. S. *tendan*, whence tinder) See the word in Glossary to Faery Queene, II

- l 1090 *watering the ground*,—cf Aeneid, xi 191
 l 1091 *frequenting*,—making the air frequent (i e full) with sighs Cf
 1 797, note

Book XI

- l 1 *lowliest*,—very lowly, a similar use of the superlative to that in
 x 859
stood—implying the continuance of the act of prayer Cf ii 55 The
 expression is referred to Mark xi 25, Luke xviii 13
 l 3 *Prevenient*,—forestalling Cf Nativity Ode 24, note
 l 4 Ezek xi 19
 l 5 Rom viii 26
 l 14 Tasso (*Gierusalemme Liberata*, xiii 72) relates that the prayer of,
 Godfrey 'flew to heaven, prompt and light as winged angels'
 l 15 Requests not granted by the gods were said to be dispersed by the
 *winds Cf Aeneid, xi 795, and Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, x 642
 l 18 Psalm cxli 2, Rev viii 3, 4
 l 31 This line is an echo of the prayer in the Liturgy to Him who
 'despiseth not the sighing of a contrite heart'
 l 33 1 John ii 1, 2
 l 38 Gen viii 21
 l 44 John xvii 21, 22
 l 52 Levit xviii 25
 l 56 Cf iv 153
 l 72 So Zeus summons his council of gods, *Iliad*, xx 4
 l 74 *perhaps*,—not referring to the events, but to the identity of the
 trumpet
 l 79 Rev xxii 1
 l 80 *fellowships*—the 'sweet societies' of Lycidas 179
 l 82 Bentley's objection to the angels being seated round the throne of
 God has been answered by the commentators with a reference to Rom iv 4
 xi 16, and Matt xix 28
 l 86 *defended*,—forbidden (*défendu*), so used by Chaucer and Spenser,
 but never by Shakespeare
 l 128 Ezek x 12, 14 Dante compares the eyes in the wings of
 cherubim to those of Argus, whose story is narrated by Ovid (*Metamorphoses*,
 i 625)
 l 135 *Leucothea*,—Ino, daughter of Cadmus The Romans identified her
 with Mater Matuta, goddess of Dawn, as Cicero remarks (*Tusc Quaest* i 12,
De Nat Deor iii 19) Milton gives the office of Matuta to Leucothea
 l 157 1 Sam xv 32
 l 159 Adam had called his wife Ishah (woman) because she was taken
 out of Ish (man) Cf viii 496 He now calls her Eve, or Havah (from
 the Hebrew word meaning 'to live') Milton had called her Eve before by
 way of anticipation (Newton)
 l 182 *subscrib'd*,—assented Shakespeare has thus used the word in
 1 Henry VI, ii 4 (Somerset's third speech), 2 Henry VI, iii 1 (Margaret's
 first speech) In *Troilus and Cressida*, ii 3, Agamemnon uses 'underwrite,'
 and Ajax 'subscribe,' in this sense

l 185 *stoopt*,—participle 'Stooping is when a hawk, being upon her wings at the height of her pitch, bendeth violently down to strike the fowl, or any other prey' *tour* may be either the French *tour*, the wheel of a bird in flight, or the *tour* of the lark in L'Allegro 43

l 186 The number two is an omen to the human pair, as the twelve swans denoted the twelve Trojan ships that had escaped the tempest (Aeneid, i 393)

l 205 The descent of Michael as a *deus ex machinâ*, is referred by Todd to the similar effects in the masks of Milton's earlier days, and a stage direction from Carew's Masque (1633) is quoted to support this view

ll 213-220 Gen xxxii 1, 2, 2 Kings vi 13

l 215 *pavilion'd*,—the meaning of Mahanaim is 'hosts' or 'camps' Shakespeare uses '*pavilion'd*' for tented in Henry V, i 2

l 230 In Eccles xix 20, it is said that 'a man's gait shews what he is' Much stress is laid upon this point by Milton, cf iv 870, ix 389 So also Virgil (Aeneid, i 405) and Shakespeare (King Lear, v 3)

'Methought thy very gait did prophesy
A royal nobleness'

l 233 *invests*,—cf Psalm xciii 1

l 242 Melibaea was a city of Thessaly, famous for a fish there caught, and used in dyeing the finest purple

l 243 *Sarra*,—a name of Tyre, from Sar, a fish caught there Cf Georgics, ii 506, and note on Il Penseroso 33

l 244 Cf Comus 83 *woof*=what is woven

l 246 Iliad, xxiv 347, 348

l 250 *Inclin'd*,—bowed So in Spenser the Red Cross Knight 'himself inclining,' speaks to Guyon (Faery Queene, II i 28)

l 261 The exact delivery by the angel of the words of the divine decree (line 97) has Homeric precedent The words of Jupiter are repeated by the Dream to Agamemnon, and by Agamemnon to the council (Iliad, ii 11, 28, 60)

l 264 *gripe of sorrow*—so in the song quoted in Romeo and Juliet (iv 5), from the Paradise of Dainty Devices

'When griping grief the heart doth wound,'

l 267 *retire*,—used as a substantive by Spenser (Faery Queene, VI ix 27), and Shakespeare (King John ii 2, Cymbeline, v 3), in both senses of 'retreat' It is found in Comus 376 (Various Readings)

l 269 This farewell has been compared with that of Philoctetes to his cave (Sophocles, Philoctetes 1453, &c)

l 270 *native soil*,—of Eve though not of Adam, who was brought thither Cf vii 537

l 280 A hint taken from the lament of Alcestis (Euripides, Alcestis 249)

l 310 *T weary him*—an Horatian phrase (Odes, i 2 26), but with an allusion to Luke xviii 5-7

l 316 Gen iv 14

l 323 Referring to the altars erected by the patriarchs in memory of God's appearing to them (Gen xii 7, xiii 4, xxxv 3)

ll 332 Exod xxxiii 22, 23

l 336 Jer. xxiii 24 Cf Bk. vii 168

l 352 Psalm v 12 (Bible Version)

l 357 Dan x 14

l 359 Gen vi 3

l 374 Aeneid, v 710

l 377 Ezek viii 3, xl 2 As Milton represents the earth as globular, what follows is physically impossible. It might have been more judicious to have represented the whole as in vision (Keightley)

l 389 *Temur*,—Tymūr Lung, commonly called Tamerlane. His first seat of dominion was Samarcand, which is in the region between the Oxus and Jaxartes, but not near either river (Keightley)

l 390 *Paquin*,—Pekin. The *Sinæ* (mentioned by Ptolemy) are the Chinese

l 392 *The golden Chersonese*,—Malacca and the Burman empire

l 395 *Bizance*,—Byzantium. The Turks came from Turkis an, a province of Tartary

l 396 Cf l 335 for a similar use of a double negative for affirmation

l 397 *Negus*—the King of Abyssinia, who was called by Europeans Prester John. 'Negus' in Ethiopic signifies 'king,' and is therefore a title, like Pharaoh, Sultan, Shah, &c (Keightley)

l 398 *Ercoco*,—Erquico or Harkiko on the Red Sea, the north-east boundary of the Abyssinian empire

the less maritime kings,—i.e. the lesser kingdoms on the sea-coast

• l 399 These places, on the east side of Africa, first became known to Europe by the voyage of Vasco di Gama, and the poetry of Camoens has given them lasting celebrity. *Mombaza* and *Melinda* lie not far from each other, on the coast of Zanguebar. *Quiloa* is a good way to the south of them, and *Sofala* still further south, in Monamatapa. Milton accentuates the last two names wrongly. *Quiloa* (Kilwa) is a dissyllable, and *Sofala* is the accentuation of Camoens. Purchas and others thought *Sofala* to be Ophir, from the resemblance of the names and because gold was obtained at *Sofala*. But the real Ophir seems to be Ofir, on the coast of Oman, in Arabia (Keightley)

l 401 From this one might suppose *Congo* and *Angola* to be south of *Sofala*, but they are really on the west coast, and parallel with Zanguebar (Keightley)

l 403 *Almansor* was one of the Almohade sovereigns, whose dominions extended over the north-west and a great part of the north coast of Africa. *Morocco* and *Fez* are on the Atlantic, *Algiers*, *Susa*, and *Tremisen* on the Mediterranean coast. Here again the language of Milton would lead us to suppose that all these places lay between the *Niger* and Mount *Atlas*, whereas they are north of this range. *Tremisen* is named from its capital, which lay inland to the south of *Algiers* (Keightley)

l 410 Sir Walter Raleigh's last voyage was to *Guiana*, for the discovery of a gold-mine which he asserted to be there. Wonderful traditions had been current of a golden city, El Dorado, in the interior

Geryon's sons,—Spaniards, the fabled monster Geryon was king of Spain

l 411 *Iliad*, v 127, *Aeneid*, ii 604. Tasso follows these precedents, making Michael remove the film from the eyes of Godfrey (*Jerusalem Liberata*, xviii 93), that he may see the angelic hosts that have come to his aid

l 414 *euphrasy* —the eye-bright, so named from its supposed effect upon the sight *Rue* is 'herb of grace' (Richard II, iii 4, Hamlet, iv 5) Both plants are affirmed by the old herbalists to have the virtue of purging the eyes

l 416 Psalm xxxvi 9

l 420 Cf viii 453, Dan x 8

l 430 *till*,—tillage

l 433 *sord*,—sward, an older form, which occurs also in the folio Shakespeare (1623), in Winter's Tale, iv 3

l 447 Aeneid, x 908

l 457 Gen iv 7

l 458 Heb xi 4

l 467 Cf Seneca, *Phoenissae*, i 131

'Ubique mors est

mille ad hanc aditus patent'

l 479 *lazar-house*,—hospital Persons with boils or ulcers were called lazars (from Lazarus) (Keightley) The word was usually synonymous with leper

l 482 *all feverish kinds*,—the 'februm cohors' of Horace (Odes

l 3 30)

ll 485-487 Not in the first edition

l 485 Two kinds of madness, possession and melancholy, are here discriminated from lunacy so called from the supposed effect of the moon's changes on those afflicted with it (Keightley)

l 486 *atrophy*,—a disease preventing the body from deriving due nourishment from food

l 487 *Marasmus*,—a wasting fever and consumption

l 489 In the draught of a tragedy on the subject of this poem, we read that Adam is shewn a 'mask of all the evils of this life and world'

l 496 In this and the next line are two phrases 'not of woman born,' and 'best of man,' which sound like echoes from the last scene of Macbeth

l 502 A Sophoclean sentiment (Oedipus Coloneus 1225, &c)

l 517 Titus iii 3 Appetite is personified also at ix 1129

l 535 Cf 'Made ripe for death by eld' (Faery Queene, II x 32), and Antonio's observation (Merchant of Venice, iv 1),

'The weakest kind of fruit

Falls earliest to the ground

l 537 Cf Cicero, *De Senectute* xix 'Et quasi poma ex arboribus, cruda si sint, vii avelluntur, si matura et cocta, decidunt, sic vitam adolescentibus vis aufert, senibus maturitas'

l 544 *damp of cold and dry* Burton gives as the first cause of melancholy, 'which is natural to all and which no man living can avoid, old age, which being cold and dry, and of the same quality as melancholy is, must needs cause it by diminution of spirits and substance, and increasing of adust humours'

l 550 Job xiv 14

l 551 *attend*,—wait for (Fr *attendre*) In the first edition the passage stood

'Of rendering up Michael to him replied'

l 553 Cf Martial, x

'Summum nec metuas diem, nec optes'

l 554 Cf 'Permitte Divis' of Horace (Odes, 1 9 9, &c)

l 563 *resonant*—sounding over again Professor Taylor's opinion of this passage was that its pregnant meaning can be fully appreciated only by a musician 'All other poets but Milton and Shakespeare make blunders about music, they never' Cf note on l 708

l 573 This account of the descendants of Seth is taken from the oriental writers, and particularly from the Annals of Eutychius (Newton) Keightley observes that Milton has, at different times, adopted each of the three hypotheses as to the 'sons of God' in Gen vi 2 (Cf v 447, xi 622, and Paradise Regained, ii 179)

l 579 Deut xxix 29

l 582 *bevy*,—company (from the Ital *beva*, a covey of partridges) The word, according to the old commentator on Spenser, was used properly of larks 'Of quails' (Keightley)

l 607 *tents of wickedness*,—expression from Psalm lxxxiv 10

l 620 *troll*—used here improperly The tongue is not trolled, but the words are trolled (rolled) over or off it

l 624 *trains*—cf Comus 151 (note)

l 625 *swim in joy*,—a phrase frequently occurring in our old poets Cf ix 1009, and Faery Queene, I xii 41, II iii 39

l 627, Cf ix 11 for a similar repetition

l 632 *Man's woe* Todd points out this 'ungallant jingle,' and quotes contemporary writers to shew that this derivation of woman is not Milton's invention

l 642 *emprise*,—enterprise Cf Comus 610, and Faery Queene, I xii 18

l 660 Newton compares the various parts of this vision with the scenes on the shield of Achilles (Iliad, xviii 478, &c)

l 661 Gen xxxiv 20, Deut xvi 18, xxi 19, Zech viii 16

l 665 *muddle age*,—365 years old, a middle age then

l 669 Cf x 546

l 672 Cf Richard III v 3

'Our strong arms be our conscience, swords our law!'

l 694 Keightley understands the passage thus These things being done for glory, it shall be held the highest pitch of triumph to be styled, &c So also Mitford

l 696 Cf Paradise Regained, iii 81-87

l 700 Jude 14

l 701 Gen v 24, Heb xi 5

l 723 I Pet iii 19, 20 The following particulars are from Josephus (Antiq Jud i iv)

l 732 *large*,—for largely, the common Latinism of adjective for adverb (Georgics, iii 28)

l 738 Iliad, xvi 384, Georgics, i 322, Ovid, Metamorphoses, i 264

l 743 *ciel'ing* or *ceiling* (Lat *caelum*, Ital *cielo*, Fr *ciel*) It is variously spelt 'syll,' 'sile,' and 'siel,' are found in our old translations of the Bible Cotgrave denies that 'ciel' is the same word in its two significations of 'heaven' and 'a roof,' because the plural in the former case is 'cieux' and in the latter 'cieils'

- Book XII.*

I 34 Milton here follows the commentators on Gen x 9 St Augustine would have translated 'before' by 'against', and Vatablus would have rendered it 'under' as if Nimrod claimed sovereignty next to God, jure divino. 'The text gives the open ends proposed, but the secret design of Nimrod was to settle to himself a place of dominion to rule over his brethren, as it afterwards succeeded, according to the delivery of the text The beginning of his kingdom was Babel' (Sir T Browne, Vulgar Errors, vii. 6)

l 41 As Taenarus or Avernus is called the gate of Hell Cf Georgics, iv 467 The subterranean fires near Puteoli had a similar reputation, as Sandys notices in his *Travels* Cf *Faery Queene*, I v 31

l 53 *avaricious spirit*,—a spirit of variance Cf the 'lying spirit' in 2 Chron xviii 22

l 59 Psalm ii 4

l 60 *bubbub*,—a Spenserian word Cf ii 951 (note)

l 71 St Augustine (*De Civitate Dei*, xv) says 'Rationalem factum ad imaginem suam [Deus] noluit nisi irrationalibus dominari, non hominem homini, sed hominem pecori'

l 83 John viii 34, 2 Cor iii 17

l 85 *Twinn'd* Shakespeare uses the word in *Othello* (ii 3) and *Timon of Athens* (iv 3)

l 96 A similar turn of expression to that in *Matt* xviii 7

l 97 Cf 'But when God hath decreed servitude on a sinful nation, fitted by their own vices for no condition but servile, all estates of government are alike unable to avoid it' (Milton's *History of Britain*, v 1)

ll 106-9 Todd remarks that this passage is almost a literal translation from the Hippolytus of Euripides, 938, &c Cf Horace, *Odes*, iii 6 46-8

l 107 Isaiah xlii 24, Hosea v 6, Hab i 13, Psalm v 5

l 115 Joshua xxiv 2

l 126 Heb xi 8

l 130 Gen xi 31 '*Ur of the Chaldees*,' a town situated at the foot of the mountains of Osroene in Upper Mesopotamia It is a place of pilgrimage for the Moslems, who honour it as the birthplace of Abraham, and it is one of the principal stations in the caravan route between Aleppo and Bagdad Its classical names are Edessa and Antiochia Callirrhoe It was the seat of an independent kingdom from B.C. 137 to A.D. 216

l 131 *Haran*, or *Charran* (*Acts* vii 2), is laid down in the *Geographia Sacra* of Bochart (1651) in the direct road from Ur of the Chaldees, and on the west side of the river Chebar In modern atlases Chebar is placed so far away to the east of Haran that its 'ford' could not lie between that place and Ur

l 132 *servitude*,—servants abstract for concrete

l 139 The extent of possession promised to Abraham (*Gen* xv 8) is from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates But in *Numb* xxiv 8, the entrance of Hamath is named as one of the points of the northern boundary

l 140 *Hermon*—a peak of Anti-Lebanon, now called the 'old man's mountain' (*Jebel el Sheikh*)

l 141 *great western sea*,—the Mediterranean

l 144 *double-founted* The sources of the Jordan are two springs—the one named that of Hasbany, near Hasbeiya, about twenty miles north of Baneas, the other, the fountain of Tell-il-Kadi, sixteen or eighteen miles south of the former, by the site of the ancient city of Dan Jordan signifies 'the flower,' 'river' (Keightley) In Sandys' *Travels* the river is said to spring 'from Jor and Dan, two not far distant fountains'

l 146 *Senir* was the Amorite name of Mount Hermon, though Milton seems to view it as a different range (*Deut* iii 9) (Keightley)

l 152 *Gen* xvii 5

- l 155 *increas'd*,—a Latinism 'Cumque es aucta liberis (Plautus)
 l 158 *sev n months*,—cf Aeneid, vi 801, Ovid, Metamorphoses, i 422,
 11 256
 l 180 *emboss*,—cover with swellings Cf
 'Bathe Merriman, the poor cur is embossed'
 (Taming of the Shrew, Induction) (Keightley)
 'Embossed' is used of a carbuncle (Lear, ii 4), and of sores (As You Like It,
 11 7)
 l 188 *palpable*,—'that may be felt' in our version, 'tam densae ut
 palpari queant' (Vulgate)
 l 191 *river-dragon* —Pharaoh (Ezek xxix 3)
 l 194 *hard nd after thaw* —an opinion of the time, but it is not the
 fact (Keightley)
 l 207 *defends*,—forbids, as in xi 86
 l 210 *craze*,—break (écraiser) Chaucer, in the Chanones Yemannes
 Tale has 'the pot was crased'
 l 216 Exod xiii 17, 18
 l 218 *inexpert*,—inexperienced Cf 'bellis inexpertus' (Tacitus, Histo-
 riarum, i 8)
 l 227 Exod xix 16-18
 l 236 Exod xx 19
 l 240 Gal iii 19
 l 241 Heb ix 19-21
 l 242 Acts iii 22, 24
 l 250 *Of cedar*,—an error it was of shittim wood or acacia The
 Temple was in Milton's mind (Keightley)
 l 255 Josephus says that the seven lamps signified the seven planets,
 and that therefore the lamps stood slope-wise to express the obliquity of the
 zodiac
 l 258 Exod xl 34-38
 l 274 *true-opening*,—in contrast to the fallacious knowledge given by
 the forbidden fruit
 l 277 *His day* —which Abraham saw John viii 56
 l 285 *Doubt not, &c* —Rom v 17, 21
 l 290 Rom iii 20, vii 7
 l 291 Heb x 4
 l 294 Rom iv 22-25
 l 299 Rom x 5
 l 306 *To filial*,—Rom viii 15
 l 310 *Joshua*,—meaning Saviour in Hebrew, as 'Jesus' does in Greek
 Cf Acts vii 45, Heb iv 8
 l 322 *a promise shall receive* —2 Sam vii 16, Ps lxxxix 36⁴
 l 325 Isaiah xl 10.
 l 336 *of bad*,—i.e. including the kings of Israel, for the *longer scroll* of
 those of Judah was good. (Keightley)
 l 338 *popular*,—of the people, i.e. the sins of the kings added to those
 of the people
 l 342. *thou saw'st*,—not strictly correct, the building of Babel was
 narrated by the angel

l 347 Psalm lxxxix 29

l 349 Ezra i 1

l 353 A contest between Jason and Menelaus for the high-priesthood gave occasion to Antiochus Epiphanes to come to Jerusalem, where he polluted the temple, according to Jewish ideas, by entering it (2 Macc v) At a later period, a similar contest between Aristobulus and Hyrcanus gave occasion to Pompey to enter the Holy of Holies The regal power and the priesthood had been united in the person of Aristobulus, son of John Hyrcanus, of the Maccabean family Pompey set over the land an Idumean, named Antipater whose son, the celebrated Herod, became king (Keightley)

l 367 *carol*,—from 'choreola, diminutive of 'chorea' (Menage) It is used for a 'dance' by Chaucer The allusion is here to the Christmas carol Todd remarks that the shepherds heard the angels' song *before* they went to Bethlehem

l 371 Psalm ii 8, Aeneid, i 287

l 379 Luke i 28

l 387 Cf Paradise Regained, i 174

l 393 *who comes*,—cf Matt xi 3, Luke vii 19, *recure*=recover frequent in Spenser

l 394 i John iii 8

l 396 Rom viii 3

l 401 *appaid*,—satisfied, appeased The word is used by Chaucer and Spenser (See Glossary to Faery Queene, II)

l 403 Rom xiii 10

l 415 Col ii 14

l 420 Rom vi 9, Rev i 18

l 421 Matt xxviii 1

l 424 i Tim ii 6 The two earliest editions have '*Thy ransom*,' later editions, '*The*'

l 442 *profuent* Milton states in his Christian Doctrine that baptism is 'by immersion in running water' (Keightley)

l 447 Gal iii 7-16, Rom iv 16

l 453 Rev xx 2

l 457 Col ii 15, Ephes iv 8-10

l 456 Luke xxiv 26

l 451 Ephes i 20, 21

l 460 Luke xxi 27

l 461 John v 28, 29, Rev xi 18

l 475 2 Cor iv 15, Rom v 20

l 485 Luke xxiv 49

l 486 John xv 26

l 487 John xiv 18, 23

l 489 Jer xxxi 33, Gal v 6, Heb viii 10

l 490 John xvi 13, Ephes vi 11, 13-16

l 493 Psalm lvi 11

l 508 Acts xx 29

l 514 i Cor ii 14 Cf Faery Queene I x 19

l 526 2 Cor iii 17

l 527 i Cor vi 19

l 532 John iv 23

l 539 Rom viii 22, Acts iii 19 The original *αναπνοή* = *respiratio*, and is so translated in the version of Junius and Tremellius

l 545 Matt xxvi 64, xvi 27, 2 Thess i 7

l 546 2 Pet iii 12, 13

l 552 *last*,—for the last time, as in line 574

l 561 1 Sam xv 22

l 562 Psalm ii 11

l 564 1 Pet v 7

l 565 Psalm cxlv 9

l 568 1 Cor i 27

l 576 1 Cor xiii 2

l 581 2 Pet i 5-7

l 587 *A Paradise within thee* Henry More Milton's contemporary, in his Exposition of the Seven Churches, defends his interpretation 'of a vineyard, in so spiritual a sense as to make it something within us, whenas both Philo and other ancient interpreters have interpreted Paradise to that sense

l 589 *Of speculation*,—i.e. a watch-tower (Lat *specula*) Cf *Paradise Regained*, iv 236

l 609 *not sad*,—perhaps the most pathetic touch in this pathetic passage

l 611 Cf *Iliad*, i 63 The revelation to Adam was in a vision that to Eve in a dream 'Visions are clearer revelations of God than dreams' (Bacon, *Essay on Youth and Age*)

l 615 Virgil, *Eclogues*, iii 52

l 629 *meteorous*,—lifted off the ground, high in air (*μετέωρος*)

l 630 *marsh*,—marsh, a form used by Spenser, Drayton and Browne It occurs also in *Ezek* xlvii 11

l 635 *vapour*,—heat, as in Horace, *Epodes*, iii 15

adust,—inflamed scorched

l 637 Gen xix 16 gave the hint of this line

l 640 *subjected*—lying beneath The Dragon carries the Red Cross Knight 'above the subject plain' (*Faery Queene*, I xi 19)

l 643 *brand*,—sword (*Faery Queene* I iv 42) Its proper meaning is 'torch,' and it is thence used for the gleaming sword, both in Saxon and Icelandic Cf *Faery Queene*, II iii 18

l 644 Milton has here improved upon the opinion of some commentators (cited by Moses Bar-Cepha), that God placed 'spectrum quoddam vehemens et terribile' before the gates of Paradise Cf *Aeneid*, vi 575

l 646 So the banished Norfolk (Richard II i 3) exclaims
'Save back to England, all the world's my way'

l 649 *solitary*,—the angel having left them

Paradise Regained

Book I

l 1 Cf opening of *Faery Queene*, an imitation of the lines (attributed to Virgil) at the beginning of the *Aeneid*, 'Ille ego qui quondam,' &c

- l 2 Rom v 19
 l 7 *wasteful wilderness* is Spenserian (*Faery Queene*, I i 32) Cf
 Isaiah li 3
 l 14 *summ'd* —cf *Paradise Lost*, vii 421
 l 15 *above heroic* —cf *Paradise Lost*, ix 14
 l 18 Isaiah lviii 1
 l 23 Luke iii 23
 l 25 John i 33
 l 26 *divinely* —from Heaven like Lat 'divinitus' (*Georgics* i 415)
 It is so used in *Paradise Lost*, viii 500
 ll 27-30 Matt iii 14-17
 l 33 Job i 7
 l 39 Ephes ii 2
 l 42 Milton may here have glanced at the Consistory of Rome, or at the
 consistorial courts of the Church of England (Keightley)
 l 44 *in mid-air*, —Ephes vi 12 Cf *Paradise Lost*, i 516
 l 53 *attending* —waiting, so used also in *Paradise Lost*, vii 407,
 xi 551
 l 62 *infring'd*, —shattered broken 'Infringe' always bears the mean-
 ing of 'break' in Shakespeare
 l 87 *obtains*, —holds and keeps (obtainet)
 l 89 Cf *Paradise Lost*, vi 834 et seqq
 l 94 *utmost edge* —cf 'extreme edge of hazard' (*All's Well that Ends*
Well, iii 3) *ἐν ἔσχατῇ τῆς ἀκμῆς* is a usual expression in Greek (*Iliad*, x 173)
 l 100 Cf *Paradise Lost*, ii 430, &c
 l 117 Cf *Paradise Lost*, i 374, &c
 l 120 *his easy steps* —in contrast to his former expedition (*Paradise*
Lost, ii 930-950)
girded with snaky wiles —as Simon was 'dolis instructus' (*Aeneid*, m 152)
 l 129 According to Rabbinical tradition Michael was the angel of
 severity, and Gabriel the angel of mercy
 l 130 The speech beginning with this line having been brought forward
 as a proof that Milton was an Arian, Mr J Morris, in his essay on the subject
 thus repels the accusation 'The marvel in Heaven was not that the Son of
 Man was the Son of God but that the Son of God should become the Son of
 Man Any intimation of the Divinity of the Son to Gabriel would be Arianism,
 as it would intimate that Gabriel knew it not But the whole drift of
Paradise Lost is in consonance with what appears to have been the de-
 liberate opinion of Milton, that there is no ground for believing in the
 eternal generation of the Son or in his essential Divinity (see *Christian*
Doctrine, v)
 l 146 *apostasy* —for apostates Cf use of 'servitude' in *Paradise Lost*,
 xii 132
 l 157 *the rudiments*, —Cf *Aeneid*, xi 156, 157
 l 162 John xvi 3
 l 171 Apollo appearing in a vision, sang to Tibullus
 'Postquam fuerant digiti cum voce locuti' (iii 4 41)
 l 175 *vanquish* is accented on the last syllable in i Henry VI iii 3
 l 182 *vigils*, —cf *Paradise Lost*, v 547

- l 185 Aeneid, x 890
 l 204 John xviii 37
 l 206 Aeneid, ix 311
 l 207 Psalm i 2, cx x 103
 l 213 *or their own* Alford (on Luke ii 46), observes 'The Lord was not acting the part of a *master* It was the custom in the Jewish schools for the scholars to ask questions of their teachers, and a great part of the Rabbinical books consists of the answers of the Rabbis to such questions'
 l 222 *to conquer willing hearts*,—Virgil, Georgics, iv 561
 l 226 *subdue* is marked in the errata to the first edition to be read instead of *destroy* Cf Aeneid, vi 854
 l 257 *vested*—Exod xxviii 43
 l 267 Isaiah liii 6
 l 292 Milton seems to have agreed with Beza and Grotius that divine knowledge was gradually communicated to the human nature of Jesus, and that He was not omniscient Luke ii 52 (Keightley) Sir Thomas Browne says on this point, 'Divinity affirmed that for the assurance of his humanity unto men, and the concealment of His divinity from the devil, he passed this age like other children' (Vulgar Errors, VII xvi)
 l 294 *our Morning Star*,—Rev xxii 16
 l 310 *among wild beasts*,—Mark i 13
 l 314 *an aged man* 'This image is not, and is not meant to be, in harmony with the wild and awful character of the supreme fiend on the contrary, it is meant to be in antagonism and intense repulsion The household image of old age, of human infirmity, and of the domestic hearth, are all meant as machinery for provoking and soliciting the fearful idea to which they are placed in collision, and as so many repelling poles' (De Quincey Works, vii 321) Cf note on Paradise Regained, ii 340
 l 320 *Perus'd* The 'perusal of a face is an expression twice used by Shakespeare (Hamlet ii 1, Romeo and Juliet, v 3)
 l 324 *pin'd*,—consumed, wasted with pain (A S *pinan*, and Prov Ger *pynen*, to cause pain)
 l 331 *dwell*—The preposition belonging to the verb is frequently omitted by Milton Cf Paradise Lost, iii 185, 483 485 (Keightley)
 l 339 *stubb*,—used here for 'stalk', it properly means a stump (Keightley) Bacon and Dryden both use it in the latter sense
 l 351 The scene of the Temptation is evidently meant to be the great Arabian desert, to reach which, from the banks of Jordan, it would be necessary to take a journey of very many miles But the desert of the Temptation was that of the 'Arabah, the valley of the Jordan, which has at all times been a wilderness Mount Quarantania overhangs it, and tradition has been true in fixing on that mountain as the spot whence our Lord beheld all the kingdoms of the earth (From Keightley's Life)
 l 353 *Elyab* Here, and at ii 19, the word (in original edition) is Eliah, but in ii 268, 277, Eliah Milton's MSS have the name Eliah (Keightley)
 l 372 i Kings xxii 19–22 There is a similar use of 'fraud' in Paradise Lost, vii 143
 l 378 Cf Paradise Lost, i 97, 598, iv 870

l 385 *attent*,—a form used by Spenser (*Faery Queene*, VI ix 26) Calidore, listening to Melibee,

‘Hung still upon his melting mouth *attent*’

l 397 Cf *Paradise Lost*, vi 900–907

l 407 John viii 44

l 414 *gaz’d*,—cf *Paradise Lost*, v 272, for a similar use of the word

l 416 Cf *Paradise Lost*, ix 467

l 421 Milton was here probably thinking of Juno’s speech (*Aeneid* x 63), in which she states and refutes the argument of Venus (Keightley)

l 428 1 Kings xxii 6

l 435 Croesus, King of Lydia, consulted the oracle at Delphi before he made war on the Persians, and was told that he would overthrow a great empire—a prediction verified by the ruin of his own. The similar answer given to Pyrrhus is quoted in 2 Henry VI i 4

l 447 This notion of angels presiding over kingdoms and regions was held by the Fathers, who derived it from the Book of Daniel and the Septuagint translation of Deut xxxiii 8 (‘according to the number of the angels of God’) (Keightley)

l 456 Cf *Nativity Ode*, final note

l 488 Isaiah i 12

l 494 *scope*,—drift, purpose, as Northumberland says of Bolingbroke

‘His coming hither hath no further scope

Than for his lineal royalties (Richard II iii 3)

l 496 Cf *Paradise Lost*, iv 1007

l 499 So Prospero says of the actors of his mask (iv 2), that they

‘Are melted into air, into thin air’

l 500 *double shade*,—cf Comus 335, and Ovid’s expression ‘*duplicatione noctis imago*’ (*Metamorphoses* xi 550)

Book II

6 The *Ianean* here has several precedents in Harrington’s translation of the *Orlando Furioso*—which, as Keightley remarks, might better admit so familiar an expression than this poem

l 13 *only shewn*—so Virgil of young Marcellus (*Aeneid*, vi 870)

l 16 Sylvester calls Elijah ‘the Thesbit’ ‘Thisbe or Tisbe was a city of the country of Gilead, beyond Jordan’ (Newton) ‘Thischbites is the epithet used in the Latin Bible of Tremellius

l 20 Bethabara is generally supposed to be the place at which the Israelites under Joshua crossed the Jordan, and therefore must have been opposite Jericho ‘the city of palms’ Joshua iii 16, Deut xxxiv 3, John iii 23 (Keightley) ‘Bethabara,’ the common reading, is a conjecture of Origen for the original ‘Bethany’ (Alford)

l 21 *Salem old* was noted in St Jerome’s time for its ruins of the palace of Melchisedec

l 22 *Machærus* was a castle in Perea, the country beyond (on the left bank of) Jordan. It lay east of the Dead Sea, at some distance from the Jordan. The Apostles seek Jesus in Jericho, the place of any consequence nearest to Bethabara and on the same side of the river, then in Ænon and Salem, both likewise on the same side, but higher up, towards Gennesaret

l 25 *creek* This word seems to mean here merely an indentation in the river. It is now generally restricted to the sea (cf *Paradise Lost*, vii 399), but in the colonies it is still used in its original sense, as equivalent to stream (Keightley). Sir John Davies (*Immortality of the Soul*) uses it for a turn or crook of the shore.

'As streams that with their winding banks do play,
Stopp'd by their creeks, run softly through the plain'

l 34 John i 14

l 44 Psalm ii 2

l 46 Nehem ix 26

l 65 *clad*,—cf *Paradise Lost*, xi 17

l 88 Luke ii 34, 35

l 98 Luke ii 49

l 103 Luke ii 19

l 109 *tracing*,—Cf *Comus*, 423 (note)

l 111 Cf *Persius* (*Satires*, iv 23)

'Ut nemo in sese tentat descendere

l 122 Milton here follows the opinion of the Platonists, who assigned daemons as presiding powers to all the elements, but he makes these daemons to be fallen angels, in accordance with the Fathers (Keightley). Cf II *Penseroso* 90, note

l 130 *frequency*,—cf *Paradise Lost*, i 797. Timon sends his message to

'Athens in the frequency of degree,

From high to low throughout' (*Timon of Athens*, v 3)

(It should, however, be noticed that Collier reads 'sequence' in this passage.)

l 131 *tasted*,—made experience of, as the Greek equivalent is used. Cf *Paradise Lost*, ii 686, *Samson Agonistes* 1091

l 138 *absolute*,—finished, perfect. Cf *Paradise Lost*, viii 547

l 141 Asmodeus (*Paradise Lost*, vi 365) or Asmodeus (*Paradise Lost*, iv 168), the angel who loved Sarah, daughter of Raguel, and slew her seven husbands, as is related in the book of Tobit

l 160 Cf *Paradise Lost*, ix 489

l 161 Cf *Paradise Lost*, viii 504

l 164 *the rugged'st brow*,—Cf II *Penseroso* 58. Spenser, in his Sonnet to Sir Christopher Hatton, speaks of 'the rugged brow of careful Policy'. Cf also

'The rugged forehead that with grave foresight,
Welds kingdom's causes and affairs of state

(*Faery Queene*, IV, Introd 1)

l 168 *magnetic*,—magnet, adjective for substantive. Keightley remarks that 'magnetic' is not a real Greek word

l 178 Here Milton follows the same interpretation of Gen vi 2 as that in *Paradise Lost*, iii 463. See note on *Paradise Lost*, xi 621

l 186 The stories of these nymphs are found in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

l 189 *Too long*,—so to tell. The same expression is used in *Paradise Lost*, i 507, iii 473

scapes,—pranks (Fr *échappée*). Menage considers the Ital *scapare* and *scampare* to be identical, and he derives them from the Lat *campus*, i.e. 'ex campo exire' (Richardson).

l 190 On the charge often brought against Milton of having blended the Christian and Pagan forms, De Quincey thinks that the justification is complete, since the false gods of the heathen world were (according to him) the fallen angels and as such were no less real than the loyal and faithful angels of the Christian heaven

l 192 *delight not all*,—cf Virgil, Eclogues, iv 2

l 196 *Pelleas*,—Alexander was born at Pella His father Philip had made it the capital of Macedon

l 210 *vouchsafe*,—always thus spelt in *Paradise Regained*, though always *voutsafe* in *Paradise Lost*

l 240 See note on *Paradise Lost*, x 155

l 258 *thoughts that feed*,—cf *Paradise Lost*, iii 37

l 259 Matt v 6, John iv 34

l 261 Psalm iv 4

l 262 *hospitable covert*—cf Horace, Odes, ii 3 10

l 263 Cf the description of Adam's bower 'inwoven shade' (*Paradise Lost*, iv 692)

l 266 *Him thought* is of the same construction as 'me thought' 'Him seemed' is the correct reading in *Faery Queene*, IV viii 4, though arbitrarily changed in some editions into 'he seemed'

l 279 The lark is called 'the herald of the morn' by Romeo (iii 5)

l 287 Similar repetitions occur in *Comus* 221, &c, and *Paradise Lost* iv 640, &c

l 289 *bottom*,—hollow, valley Cf 'bottom glade' (*Comus* 532)

l 293 Cf *Arcades* 88, *Paradise Lost*, iv 246, ix 1086

l 295 *Nature taught Art*,—cf *Faery Queene*, II xii 59

l 296 A reminiscence of the passage in Tasso (*Gerusalemme Liberata*, xiii 26) where, in the enchanted forest, nymphs issue from the trees to Rinaldo (Keightley)

l 309 *Nebaoth*—put for his father Ishmael *found he* in original editions, *here* in ed 1692

l 313 Where Hagar wandered was the wilderness of Beersheba Where the Israelites were fed with manna was the wilderness of Sin Elijah retreated into the wilderness 'a day's journey from Beersheba' Our Saviour was tempted in the wilderness near Jordan But Milton treats all that tract of country as the same wilderness, distinguished by different names from different places adjoining (Todd) See note on l 351

Thebez It should be *Thisbe* Thebez was in Ephraim (Keightley)

l 322 *the giver*,—cf *Comus* 703

l 324 Cf Satan's flattery to Eve (*Paradise Lost*, ix 539, &c)

l 334 Cf 'Interea gustus elementa per omnia quaerunt'

(Juvenal, xi 14)

l 340 On this passage Charles Lamb remarks 'The whole banquet is too civic and culinary, and the accompaniments altogether a profanation of that deep, abstracted, holy scene The mighty artillery of sauces which the cook fiend conjures up, is out of proportion to the simple wants and plain hunger of the guest He that disturbed him in his dreams, from his dreams might have been taught better' Cf line 275 'Nothing in Milton is finer fancied than these temperate dreams of the Divine Hungerer' A

different view is taken by another critic 'The principle of lurking and subtle antagonism will explain everything that has been denounced under the idea of pedantry in Milton. It is the key to all that lavish pomp of art and knowledge which is sometimes put forth by Milton in situations of intense solitude, as in the Eden of *Paradise Lost* and the banquet here. The shadowy exhibition of a regal banquet in the desert draws out and stimulates the sense of its utter solitude and remoteness from men and cities. The images of architectural splendour suddenly raised up in the very centre of Paradise, as vanishing shows by the wand of the magician, bring into powerful relief the depth of silence and the unpopulous solitude which possess this sanctuary of man whilst yet happy and innocent (De Quincey)

l 344 *gris amber*,—i.e. ambergris. The substance was much used as a general perfume, and even in the high cookery of that time. Cf. 'pheasants drenched with ambergris' (Massinger, *City Madam*, ii 1) (Keightley). Fuller gives its derivation 'gray amber,' from the colour thereof, and Richardson also quotes (in his Dictionary) a passage from Beaumont and Fletcher, shewing that the wines at a feast 'were amber'd all.'

l 345 *Freshet*—a stream of fresh water. Browne, in his *Britannia's Pastorals*, speaks of fish that

'Now love the freshet, and now love the sea'

l 347 Pontus Euxinus, in which, Pliny observes all fish quickly came to perfection. The Lucrine lake, near Baiae, is celebrated by Horace (*Epodes*, ii 49, and *Satires*, ii 4, 32), and Martial, *Epigrams*, iii 9, 3. Martial uses Lucrina alone to signify oysters. The lamprey from the Straits of Gibraltar is mentioned by Aulus Gellius.

l 349 *diverted*,—turned aside. So used in Milton's *Eikonoclastes*.

l 351 *fragrant smell*,—cf. *Odyssey*, ix 210.

l 355 *Naiades*. By these he probably means the Dryades and Oreades, the wood- and mountain-nymphs. The Naiades were the water-nymphs. In making them bearers of fruit and flowers, he probably remembered Virgil, *Eclogues* ii 45. Amalthea was the nymph or the goat that nursed Jupiter, who gave her horn the power of pouring out fruits. The Hesperides were the three maidens who had charge of the golden fruit, but who never left their garden. He seems here to take the Hesperides for the name of their abode, rather than of themselves (Keightley). Milton makes the Naiades companions of Circe (*Comus* 254), and also the Hesperides skilful in singing (*Comus* 983).

l 360 *Logres* (or Loegria),—England east of Severn.

Lyones (or Lionesse),—Cornwall (Todd). More probably Leon in Brittany (Keightley).

l 361 *Lancelot, or Pelleas, or Pellenore*,—characters in the *Morte D'Arthur*, translated (1470) by Sir Thomas Mallory. Sir Pelleas, in Spenser, is one of those who pursue the Blatant Beast when, after being conquered by Sir Calidore, it broke its chain and ranged through the world.

l 362 *harmonious airs*,—cf. *Paradise Lost*, xi 595.

l 364 *of gentlest gale*,—cf. *Paradise Lost*, iv 156.

l 370 *defended*,—forbidden, as in *Paradise Lost*, xi 86.

l 382 *likes*,—sc. it likes, as in *Hamlet* ii 2, 'It likes us well.'

l 384 Psalm lxxviii 19.

- l 385 Cf Horatio's farewell to Hamlet (v 2)
 'And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest'
- l 391 Cf the Sophoclean sentiment (Ajax, 665),
 'The gifts of foes are none, and profit not'
- l 401 *far fet* —far-fetched This form was doubtless used for euphony, like 'perfet' and 'voutsafe' in *Paradise Lost* Keightley cites passages from Beaumont and Fletcher, and from Ben Jonson, in which 'far-fet' occurs 'Fet' is used by Shakespeare (*Henry V* iii 1)
- l 403 The vanishing of the banquet seems to have been suggested by the scene in the *Tempest* (iii 3)
- l 416 'Hunger bitten' occurs in *Job* xviii 12
- l 422 Cf Mammon's praise of wealth (*Faery Queene*, II vii 11), and Horace's enumeration of its advantages (*Epistles*, 1 6 36)
- l 423 Antipater is mentioned by Josephus as abounding in wealth, and his son Herod, by promising money to Mark Antony, obtained the kingdom of Judæa
- l 427 Cf Horace, *Epistles*, 1 1 53, and Juvenal's remark '*Probitas laudatur et alget*' (1 74) (Keightley)
- l 439 *Judges* vi 15, xi 1, 2
- l 459 With this passage compare the speeches of *Henry IV* (Pt II iii 1), and *Henry V* (iv 1) in Shakespeare
- l 466 Cf Horace, *Odes*, ii 2 9
- l 470 *Cities of men* —an Homeric expression (*Iliad*, xviii 490), used also in *Paradise Lost*, xi 640
- l 481 Milton probably had in mind the narrative in *Quintus Curtius* (iv 1) of the young men who declined the proffered kingdom of Sidon and named Abdalonymus for it, as well as the resignations of Diocletian, Charles V, Christina of Sweden, and others

Book III

- l 3 *convinc't* —convicted The word is so used in the Authorised Translation (*John* viii 46) So also in Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, 1 7, iv 3
- l 10 *Matt* xii 34
- l 11 *shape*, —used in the sense of the idea, the 'forma formans' of Bacon
- l 18 *conduct*, —leading of an army Cf *Paradise Lost*, 1 130, hence *Ital condothere* (Keightley)
- l 27 *erected*, —a classic epithet, used also in *Paradise Lost*, 1 679 'Magno animo et erecto' (*Cicero*, pro Rege Deiotaro) Sidney, in the *Arcadia*, speaks of 'high erected thoughts seated in a heart of courtesie' Cf *Lycidas* 70, &c, and *Paradise Lost*, 1 679
- l 29 Spenser shews Guyon (in *Faery Queene*, Bk II) tempted first by Mammon and then by Vainglory (*Philotime*)
- l 33 Alexander when he began to reign was only twenty, and but twenty-three when (sc 333) he won the battle of Issus, and two years afterwards, by the victory of Arbela, he overthrew the Persian empire, founded by Cyrus He died in his thirty-third year

l 34 *dispose*,—disposal, a form also occurring in King John (1 3)
 'Needs must you lay your head at his dispose'

l 35 Scipio was but twenty seven when (B C 207) he brought down the pride of the Carthaginians by expelling them from Spain But he was thirty-two when he gained his decisive victory of Zama

l 36 Pompey was only twenty-four when he rode in triumph for his African expedition, but forty five when he entered Rome after his victory over Mithridates, the Pontic king

l 39 *Great Julius* He is said to have wept at the sight of the statue of Alexander, who at Cæsar's age had already made himself famous

l 47 Cf *Paradise Lost*, xi 691, 789, &c

l 50 'The deliberate utterance of the most democratic of our great poets' (Henry Taylor, Notes on Books)

l 78 Joel ii 3

l 81 Antiochus II and Antiochus Epiphanes were called Theus The Athenians called Antigonus and Demetrius Polorcetes, Benefactors and Deliverers

l 84 Alexander and Romulus Milton seems to allude to the drunkenness of the one, and to the violent death of the other (Keightley)

l 128 Cf *Paradise Lost*, iv 46

l 138 *recreant*,—apparently = 'renouncing the faith,' from obsolete *recroire*, as 'miscreant' from 'mécroire' (Keightley) Richardson also gives (Dictionary) the derivation from Low Lat *recrédere* When slaves were found on trial to have put forth an unfounded claim to freedom, they were said 'reddere et recrédere se' to their masters—hence those were said 'recrédere se' who owned themselves defeated in battle Latham takes 'recrédere' = 'believe again, 'give up a creed or claim,' 'retract'

l 159 Cf Luke xiii 1 Josephus speaks of the murders of the Jews by Pilate

l 160 *oft* Not quite correct In the time of the Emperors, though the rule of the governors was severe, the religion of the Jews was respected (Keightley) Pompey, with several of his officers, entered the Holy of Holies, as Antiochus had done before him (2 Macc v)

l 171 *Kingdom* —the condition of a king, like 'serfdom'

l 173 *Occasion* in Spenser is a hag with a grey forelock

'But all behind was bald, and worn away

That none thereof could ever taken hold

(Faery Queene, II iv 4)

l 175 Psalm lxix 9, John ii 17

l 183 Eccles iii 1

l 187 Acts i 7

l 206 Cf *Paradise Lost*, iv 108

l 217 Keightley supposes that 'From' must be a mistake for 'For' There does not, however, appear to be any need of alteration Satan assumes, from the placid aspect of Christ, that the 'reign' of Messiah will be a 'shelter' to himself

meek regard,—cf *Paradise Lost*, iii 266

l 219 Cf *Fair Infant*, 69

l 221 *a shelter*,—Isaiah xxv 4

l 238 *insight* — 'in sight' in original editions But 'meanwhile' is also printed separately in those editions Their authority must not be pressed too far, for they are not always correct or consistent Neither the sense nor the cadence of the line would be improved by following them

l 242 1 Sam ix 20, 21

l 256 Strabo describes Euphrates as flowing with a winding stream It is called 'vagus' by Statius Pliny says that by the Medes the Tigris is called an arrow, from its swiftness 'Tigris means arrow, probably alluding to the straight current of the river (Keightley)

l 270 The bounds traced were those of the Assyrian empire at the height of power

l 275 Diodorus Siculus gives sixty miles as the circuit of Nineveh

l 277 *golden monarchy* — either in allusion to Nebuchadnezzar's dream, or with a more general reference to the splendour of Eastern kings (Paradise Lost, ii 4)

l 278 *Salmanassar* in the reign of Hezekiah carried the ten tribes captive into Assyria

l 280 *Babylon*, — built by Belus and Semiramis, the father and wife of Ninus, and rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan iv 30), who twice led Judah captive, in the reign of Jehoiakim (2 Kings xxiv), and eleven years after in the reign of Zedekiah (2 Kings xxv), till Cyrus set them free and restored the Jews to their own country

l 284 *Persepolis*, if not built by Cyrus, was made by him the Persian metropolis

l 283 *Bactra* (modern Balk) was the capital of Bactriana, a province of Persia, famous for its fruitfulness (Virgil, Georgics, ii 138)

l 286 *Ecbatana*, — the capital of Media and summer residence of the Persian kings, as Susa (Shusan of Scripture) was their winter palace

l 287 *Hecatompylos* — so named from its hundred gates It is thought to be the modern Damaghan, not far from Teheran, eighty miles south of the Caspian (Keightley)

l 289 Perhaps Milton derived this circumstance from Heylin's *Cosmography*, where it is said of the Euloeus (another name for Choaspes, which is also called Ulai in Daniel) that its stream was so pure 'that the great Persian kings would drink of no other water

ll 290-292 *Æmalian* — Macedonian Cf Sonnet in 10 These cities were built by the successors of Alexander *Seleucia* was built near the Tigris by Seleucus Nicator, called Great to distinguish it from other cities of the same name *Nisibis* was another city on the Tigris, called also Antiochia *Artaxata*, the chief city of Armenia on the Araxes *Teredon* a city near the Persian Gulf below the confluence of Euphrates and Tigris *Ctesiphon*, opposite Seleucia, was the winter residence of the Parthian kings

l 294 All these cities, once belonging to the Seleucidæ or Syro-Macedonian princes (sometimes called kings of Antioch, from their usual residence), were now under the dominion of the Parthians, whose empire was founded by Arsaces, who revolted from Antiochus Theus B C 250

l 301 *the Scythians* — i e the Turk, probably the present Usbeks

l 302 *Sogdiana* was a province beyond the Oxus or Jihon It is part of Bucharia, and contains Bokhara and Samarcand (Keightley)

l 309 These are methods of drawing up infantry (Keightley) The rhomb was a battalion arranged in the shape of a diamond Sir Thomas Browne (Garden of Cyrus) says 'The shear and the wedge battles were each made of half a rhombus and but differenced in position, the wedge invented to break or work into a body, the forceps (or shear) to environ or defeat the power thereof, composed out of the selectest soldiery and disposed into the form of a V, wherein receiving the wedge it enclosed it on both sides The rhombus or lozenge figure was a remarkable form of battle in the Grecian cavalry, observed by the Thessalians and Philip of Macedon'

l 310 *numbers numberless* is warranted not only by classical usage, but by the repetitions of this very phrase in English prose and poetry before the date of *Paradise Regained*

l 315-321 *Arachosia* (modern Afghanistan), and *Candaor* (modern Candahar) were provinces of Parthia to the east, *Margiana* (Khorassan) and *Hyrcania* to the north According to Sir W Jones, Shirvan and Daghestan are the countries meant by the *Hyrcanian cliffs* and the *Iberian dales* From the *Atropatian*, or northern division of Media, the description of these Parthian provinces (moving nearly in a circle) turns southward to *Adiabene* or the western part of Babylonia, and, passing through part of *Media*, it concludes with *Susiana* which extended southward to the Persian Gulf, called *Balsara s haven*, from the port of Balsora This Balsara is a mispronunciation (as Sir William Jones remarks) of Basra, which besides was not built for more than six hundred years after the Temptation

l 324 *sharp sleet*,—cf 'Shower of hail and arrows' (Faery Queene, V iv 38) Aeneid, xii 284

l 326 Euripides, in the *Phoenissae* (109) describes 'a field of brass'

l 329 Jonson uses 'endorse' in a like sense in an epigram to William Earl of Newcastle on his horsemanship, saying of the earl's steed that his master's 'seat his beauties did endorse'

l 334. *rivers proud*,—cf Aeneid, viii 728

l 337 The allusion is to Boiardo's Orlando Innamorato *Agrican*, the Tartar king brings into the field 2,200,000 men, and Sacripante, king of Circassia, who comes to the aid of *Gallaþbrone*, 382 000 men The siege is alluded to in Don Quixote, Book ii chap 2 Hallam calls these lines 'perhaps the most musical Milton ever produced,' for which he is ridiculed by Lander

l 341 *Angelica*,—heroine of the Orlando Furioso, Ariosto's poem, in continuation of that of Boiardo

l 342 *prowest*—see note on Milton's paraphrase of Psalm cxxxvi 34

l 366 The Parthians led away Hyrcanus to Seleucia, but made Antigonus king of the Jews, of which dignity he was afterwards deprived by the Romans

l 374 2 Kings xviii 11 The cities were now under the Parthian dominion

l 377 It has been suggested that Milton wrote 'Eight sons of Jacob' in accordance with the fact

l 384 Gen xv 18, 1 Kings iv 21

l 387 *of fleshy arm*,—2 Chron xxxii 8, Jer xvii 5 Cf Faery Queene, I ix 11

l 388 Cf 'Totius belli instrumento et apparatu' (Cicero, *Quaestiones Academicæ*, ii 1)

l 396 John vii 6

l 409 1 Chron xxi 1

l 414 Jeroboam set up the calves in Bethel and in Dan in imitation of the two calves which the Egyptians worshipped, one called Apis, at Memphis (metropolis of Upper Egypt), and the other called Mnevis, at Hierapolis (metropolis of Lower Egypt) Jezebel, Ahab's wife, was a Zidonian princess (1 Kings xvi 31) Ahab built an altar for Baal (1 Kings xvi 32), and probably at the same time was introduced the worship of Ashtaroth (1 Kings, xi 5) Selden says the prophets of 'the groves' were the prophets of Ashtaroth, and that 'the groves under every green tree' should be 'Ashtaroth under every green tree' (2 Kings xvii 10)

l 431 Jer v 19

l 436 Allusion seems here made to Rev xvi 12 and Isaiah xi 15, 16

Book IV

l 10 'There is no simile here, no illustration, but exactly what Satan had been doing' (Landor)

l 15 Cf Iliad, ii 469 xvi 641

l 18 Cf Iliad, xv 618, Aeneid, vii 586 Cf also Wolsey's protestation that his duty should stand firm

'As doth a rock against the chafing flood'

l 27 The *plain* of Latium is shewn The *ridge of hills* is the Apennines, the *southern* is the Tyrrhene Sea (Keightley)

l 35 Cf Virgil, *Georgics*, ii 35 Keightley remarks that at the time of the Temptation some of the objects here described were not yet in Rome The first *triumphal arch* was that of Titus, for the destruction of Jerusalem, the *aqueducts* raised on arches were not yet built The palaces were the mansions of such men as Pompey and Lucullus

l 40 The modes of vision here suggested are found in the commentators on Luke iv 5 The annotator of the Latin translations by Beza and Tremellius demurs to the literal interpretation as implying that the vision was one of the body, and that Satan had power over the senses and mind of our Lord

l 57 *imperial palace*,—that built by Nero after the burning of Rome By 'gilded battlements' he may allude to Nero's Golden House *Turrets, terraces, and spires* belong to modern architecture (Keightley)

l 59 *band*,—for handiwork Cf *Paradise Lost*, ix 398

l 66 *turm*,—coined from Lat *turma* (Aeneid, v 560) The regiment (ala) was composed of *turmae* (troops)

l 68 The Appian road led to the south, and the Æmilian to the north The nations on the Appian road are included in ll 69-76, those on the Æmilian in ll 77-79

ll 69-75 *Syene*,—a city of Egypt on the confines of Ethiopia *Meroe*, an island and city of Ethiopia, on the Upper Nile 'Meroe being within the tropics, the sun, after being vertical, passes north of it, so that the shadow falls then to the south at noon, whence 'it both ways falls'

(Keightley) 'In Meroe bis anno absumi umbras' (Pliny, Natural History, ii 75) The *realm of Bocchus* is Mauritania The *golden Obersonese* is Malacca (Paradise Lost, xi 392) *Taprobane* is Ceylon, from which, Keightley observes, embassies came to some Roman emperors, but not to Augustus or Tiberius Pliny (vi 22) speaks of 'Taprobane, extra orbem a naturâ relegata'

l 77 *Gades*—the modern Cadiz, here put for that part of Spain most distant from Rome, Hispania Inferior

l 78 From the mouth of the Danube to the Palus Moeotis, all along the Euxine, lay the European Scythians, and beyond them northward the Sarmatians

l 84 The Tempter had before advised Our Lord to prefer the Parthian (iii 363)

l 103 Luke iv 6

l 114 In Hakewill's Apology there is an elaborate disquisition on 'the excessive gluttony of the Romans, their costly tables, their huge platters,' &c

l 115 The citron-wood which grew on Mount Atlas was used by the Romans for tables It was beautifully veined and spotted, and a second reference to it may be here intended by 'Atlantic stone' Evelyn writes to Pepys, asking whether it be 'possible to discover whether any of those citron-trees are yet to be found, that of old grew on the foot of Mount Atlas, not far from Tingis, and were heretofore "in deliciis" for their politure and natural maculations' Keightley supposes that *Atlantic* is put for Numidian (after classic precedent), and that the *floor* of the dining-room of Numidian marble, or giallo antico, may be meant

l 117 All the places here named are in Campania Martial mentions Setia as famous for its wines The Calenian and Falernian are named by Horace (Odes i 31 9) and Virgil (Georgics, ii 96)

l 118 *Chios*,—the modern Scio, off the Ionian coast Its wine is mentioned by Horace (Satires, ii 3 115, Odes, iii 19 5) and Virgil (Eclogues, v 71) Tasso names the wines of Crete with those of Chios

l 119 *crystal* is put for 'glass,' and *myrrhine* for 'porcelain,' which came from China, but as the Romans got it via Persia, they thought that it was manufactured in that country (Keightley)

l 136 *peeling*,—pillaging Chaucer and Spenser have the form 'pill' 'peeled' occurs in Isaiah xvii 2 Hakewill devotes a section of his Apology to the Roman custom of unmercifully 'piling and polling, robbing and spoiling the provinces'

l 142 *scene*,—theatre Perhaps an allusion is intended to the prominence which theatrical matters obtained in the life of the court and metropolis, as shewn by Pepys' Diary

l 145 Cf Paradise Lost, xii 90, &c

l 150 Dan ii 44

l 157 *mice*,—see note on Comus 139

l 188 Cf Paradise Lost, iv 109

l 203 2 Cor iv 4

l 219 *Moses' chair*,—Matt xxiii 2

l 234 *idolisms*,—a word coined by Milton, probably meaning the Platonic

ideas (Bacon's 'idola' were very possibly in his mind) Traditions were probably the opinions of Pythagoras and others, so handed down, the paradoxes were the well known questions of the Stoics (Keightley)

l 235 *evinc'd*,—subdued, a Latinism (Aeneid, iv 474)

l 239 *built nobly*—cf Iliad, ii 546

l 240 The Spartans when urged to destroy Athens, refused to put out one of the two eyes of Greece (Keightley)

l 252 *recess*,—retreat Cf Paradise Lost, iv 708, ix 446

l 244 *Academe*,—called after the Attic hero Academus It was the favourite resort of Plato, and hence his followers were called Academicians 'Though the sacred olives grew there, it is incorrect to term it an olive-grove as the olive is little suited to form groves such as contemplation would love' (Keightley) But Plutarch, in his life of Sulla, describes the Academy as the suburb of Athens most abounding in trees

l 245 *Attic bird*,—the nightingale Philomela was the daughter of Pandion, king of Athens Near the Academy was Colonos, which Sophocles has celebrated as the haunt of nightingales

l 246 'The nightingale is never heard after the middle of June' (Keightley)

ll 247-249 Mount *Hymettus* was famous for its honey It is about three miles south of Athens The *Ilissus* rises on the north slope of Hymettus, flows through the east side of Athens, and is lost in the marshes of the Athenian plain 'It rolls only in the poet's imagination, like Siloa and Cedron' (Keightley)

l 253 *Lyceum*—a gymnasium at Athens, *outside* the walls, just above the Ilissus It was frequented by Aristotle and his followers the Peripatetics

Stoa,—the painted portico (*στοα ποικίλη*) adorned with pictures of Marathon, by Polygnotus In this portico Zeno conversed with his disciples, thence called Stoics Dr Wordsworth remarks that the only topographical error in Milton's description is the placing the Lyceum within the walls

l 257 *charms*,—i.e. songs, 'carmina' Alcaeus and Sappho were both of Mitylene in Lesbos They were the leaders of that 'Æolum carmen' which Horace boasts to have introduced into Italy (Odyssey, iii xxx 13)

Dorian,—the poems of Pindar are meant (Cf Horace, Odyssey, iv 2)

l 259 Herodotus, in the life of Homer attributed to him, says that Homer was born near the river Meles, and thence called Melesigenes, and that afterwards when blind and settled at Cumæ he was called Homer (quasi ὁ μὴ ὁρᾶν) from the term by which the Cumæans distinguished blind persons (Todd) Sir Thomas Browne speaks of Melesigenes, alias Homer, the father poet (Vulgar Errors, VII xiii)

l 260 In allusion to the epigram in which Apollo says

Ἡείδον μὲν ἐγών ἐχάρασσε δὲ θεῖος Ὀμηρος

l 261 The tragic dialogue was mostly in iambic measure

l 264 *sententious*—Quintilian's character of Euripides is 'sententiosus, et in iis, quæ a sapientibus tradita sunt, poene ipsis par'

l 266 *High actions*,—the fall of Troy, the fate of Oedipus, the defeat of Xerxes *high passions*, as in Medea, Hippolytus Philoctetes, &c (Keightley)

l 270 *Shook the Arsenal*,—None of the commentators can explain this phrase

fulmin'd Spenser uses the word (Faery Queene, III ii 5),

'Of lightning through bright heaven fulmined

The oratory of Demosthenes was compared by Longinus to thunder and lightning Aristophanes had paid (Acharnians 531) a similar tribute to the eloquence of Pericles

l 271 *To Macedon*, — in the Philippics of Demosthenes

l 273 *tenement* In the Clouds of Aristophanes (l 92) the dwelling of Socrates is pointed out as a 'small house or tenement' (*οικίδιον*) Cicero praises Socrates (Tusculanae Quaestiones, v 4) for having brought philosophy down from heaven to dwell in cities and even in houses

l 274 Socrates was so pronounced by the oracle, because, though equally ignorant with others, he knew that he was ignorant, while they esteemed themselves wise

l 277 *Mellifluous streams* Cicero, speaking (Acad Quaest i 4) of the old Academic and the Peripatetic systems, says, 'idem fons erat utrisque, sc Plato

l 278 The three phases of Academic philosophy were the old, under Plato, the middle, under Arcesilas, and the new, under Carneades

l 283 The Stoic paradox, that a wise man is always a king Cf Horace, Satires, i 3 125 It has been proposed to read '*Their* rules'

l 295 Milton in his poem *De Idea Platonica*, calls Plato 'fabulator maximus,' from the allegories in the Dialogues

conceits are the Ital *concetti*, here rather used as equivalent to Bacon's 'imagnations as one would' Spenser calls his poem a 'continued allegory, or dark conceit'

l 296 The Sceptics, followers of Pyrrho

l 297 The Peripatetics

l 299 This line gives a somewhat distorted reflection of the ideal of Epicurus—'health of body and tranquillity of soul'

l 308 *subtle shifts* Stoicorum autem non ignoras quam sit subtile, vel spinosum potius, disserendi genus' (Cicero, De Finibus, iii 1)

l 314 Cicero maintains that we have a right to glory in our own wisdom and virtue, as proceeding from ourselves (De Natura Deorum, iii 36)

l 316 *Rather accuse him*, — cf Odyssey, i 32, &c

l 320 *her false resemblance only meets*, — Ixion-like

l 321 Eccles xii 12

l 322 Cf Paradise Lost, vii 126

l 329 *worth a sponge* Augustus said, when he had written a tragedy of Ajax, 'Ajacem suum in spongiam incubuisse' (Suetonius, Augustus)

l 330 Cf Newton's well-known comparison of himself to a child gathering pebbles on the shore of the unexplored ocean of Truth

l 335 *artful terms*, — referring to the inscriptions at the beginning of several psalms to denote the various kinds of psalms or of instruments

l 340 *personating* — proclaiming loudly (Aeneid, vi 417) Todd takes the sense of 'acting,' and quotes from Prynne's *Histriomastix* 'the recital, acting, and personating of the names, the histories, and notorious villainies of the heathen gods'

l 346 Milton, in his own person, had expressed this opinion in his Reason of Church Government, Bk ii (Preface), quoted in Appendix.

l 354 *statist*,—statesman The word is used by Shakespeare (Hamlet, v 2, Cymbeline, ii 4)

l 366 *all his darts* —cf Psalm lxiv 3, Ephes vi 16

l 411 Cf Aeneid, iii 199, Faery Queene, I viii 9

l 413 *run* is here used (as elsewhere in Milton) in the sense of rushing down Cf Paradise Lost, i 46 vi 868

l 414 *stony caves* —cf Aeneid, i 52

l 415 *hinges of the world* —the cardinal points (Lat *cardo*, a hinge)

l 419 *sheer*,—see note on Paradise Lost, i 741

shrouded —sheltered See note on Comus 147

l 422 Milton may have here remembered the pictures of the Temptation of St Anthony

l 426 Cf Lycidas 187, Comus 188, and Paradise Lost, vii 134

l 427 *amice* —used for a monk's habit in Faery Queene, I iv 18—
When the wizard Michael Scott lay dead,

'A pilgrim's amice wrapt him round'

It is properly a linen cloth worn by the priest during mass, intended to represent the veil with which the Jews blindfolded Christ, and typifying 'faith, the head of all virtues' (Strype, Appendix, 109)

l 429 *chas'd the clouds*,—cf Aeneid, i 143

l 431 Cf Spenser's description (Sonnet xl) of the effects of the 'fair sunshine'

'That, when a dreadful storme away is flit

* Through the broad world doth spread his goodly ray,
At sight whereof, each bird that sits on spray,
And every beast that to his den was fled,
Comes forth afresh out of their late dismay,
' And to the light lift up their drooping hed'

l 453 Aeneid, i 137

l 454 *flaw*,—gust of wind See Paradise Lost, x 697

l 455 *the pillar'd frame*,—cf Job xxvi 11 Comus 598

l 467 *Did I not tell thee?*—referring to iii 351 There is a copy of his poem in the King's Library, carefully corrected throughout, apparently at the date of publication, in accordance with the printed directions At this place, in the same handwriting, occurs the following alteration, for which those directions give no authority

'Did I not tell thee, soon thou shalt have cause
To wish thou never hadst rejected thus
The perfect season offer'd, with my aid
To win thy destin'd seat, prolonging still
All to the push of Fate? pursue thy way,' &c

l 478 Cf l 374, and ll 381–389

l 502 The punctuation is that of the original editions Keightley puts a comma after 'heard'

l 534 *as a centre*,—cf

'Of his corage as any centre stable

(Chaucer's Squire's Tale)

l 542 The hippogriff bears off Rogero, in the fourth canto of the Orlando Furioso

1 548 *Alabaster*,—not as in Comus 660, 'alabaster' 'Perhaps (as Vossius says) from ἀ and λαβεῖν, that which we cannot hold, or which has no handles (λαβαί)' (Richardson) The pear-shaped form being used for boxes of ointment or perfume, the word (on this theory) was transferred from the shape to the usual material of the boxes

1 549 *pinnacle*,—Milton probably meant one of the spires See note on 1 51 (Keightley) Alford supposes *περύγιον* to mean (in Matt iv 5) a pointed roof or gable, and that our Lord was placed on Herod's portico, a dizzy height, overhanging the ravine of Kedron

1 561 The commentators diversely interpret Milton's meaning in this passage (1) That our Lord asserted His divinity, and proved it by standing on the pinnacle, and that 'Tempt not the Lord thy God' was a rebuke to the devil for tempting him (2) That our Lord gave this precept of Holy Writ as a reason for not casting himself down, and stood by his faith thus exhibited (See Introduction, p lx1)

1 564 *Irassa*, in Cyrene, is said by Pindar to have been the scene of the contest of Hercules with Antaeus, the Libyan giant, who is by some identified with the king of this city

1 565 *Alcides* is the name of Hercules, son of Jove and Alcmena (Aeneid, vi 123) But the appellation properly belongs to the son of Amphitryon, whose father was Alcaeus

1 572 The Sphinx, when her riddle was solved, threw herself from the Cadmea, which might be termed the *Ismenian steep*, from the river Ismenus that ran by Thebes

1 581 *globe*,—cf Paradise Lost, ii 512 (note)

1 583 *him* in this line would grammatically apply to Satan, although the sense is obvious enough

1 585 In the Metamorphoses of Apuleius, Psyche, when exposed on a lofty rock, is wafted thence by a zephyr to a charming valley, where, in a stately palace, she finds provided for her a rich repast, at which, while she sits, she is regaled with music by invisible performers

1 595 Landon commenting on the inferiority of this triumphal song to those in the earlier poem, remarks that 'the angels must have lost their voices since they left Paradise

1 597 John i 14

1 604 *Thief of Paradise* —cf John x 1, Paradise Lost, iv 192

1 605 *debel*,—subdue (debelleare) (Aeneid vi 854) Bacon uses 'debellate'

1 611 Psalm cxxiv 7

1 619 Luke x 18 Cf Iliad, v 5

1 620 Luke x 18, Rom xvi 20 Cf Paradise Lost, x 190

1 624 *Abaddon*,—Destruction, in the Old Testament the name of a place (not of a person as in Rev ix 11), and equivalent to Hell See Job xxvi 6, xxviii 22, xxxi 12, Proverbs xv 11 (Keightley)

1 628 *possession foul*,—cf Rev xviii 2

1 629 Matt viii 28-33, Rev xx 1-3

1 636 *our Saviour meek*,—Matt. xi 29

Samson Agonistes

Preface

P 205, l 8 *for so, in physic, &c*,—allusion to the doctrine of Signatures, set forth by Paracelsus, between 1530 and 1540, which inferred the propriety of the use of remedies from their bearing some resemblance to the part affected. Thus saffron and turmeric were given in liver complaints from the resemblance of those substances to the colour of bile.

l 14 *a verse of Euripides* Newton remarks that the verse is amongst the fragments of Menander, and Todd rejoins that it is also among those of Euripides.

l 16 *Paræus*, David, a Calvinist theologian (1548–1622). His commentary on the Romans was burnt by the executioner by order of James I, on account of its anti-monarchical doctrine. His commentary on the Revelation was translated into English in 1644.

P 206, l 5 *the poet's error, &c*, glancing at the tragedies of Dryden, or perhaps even at those of Shakespeare. Milton would probably have disapproved the grave diggers in Hamlet, and the fool in Lear.

l 9 *no prologue*,—i.e. apology for the poet as did the ancient comedy.

l 20 *Apoletumenon*,—i.e. free from the restraint of any particular measure, not from all measures whatsoever.

Argument

equals of his tribe 'Equals' here = 'æquales,' those of his own age. Cf. 'Ænnius Livio æqualis fuit' (Cicero, de Claris Oratoribus 18). The word is found in this sense in the Authorised Version (Galat 1 14), and in the passage quoted from the Apology for Smectymnus in the Appendix.

Agonistes The ἀγωνισταί were those who only occasionally contended for prizes at the public games, and were not professional athletes. The word is therefore appropriate to Samson's single appearance in the arena.

l 13 *Dagon*—cf. Paradise Lost 1 462.

l 15 *with leave*—i.e. with granted leave (Paradise Regained, 11 302).

l 27 Josephus says that the angel ascended through the smoke as in a chariot.

l 33 *captiv'd*,—so accented (on the last syllable) in Faery Queene, II iv 16.

l 53 Cf. Horace, Odes, 11 4 65 (Keightley).

l 59 Cf. Bacon's expression, 'God doth often hang the greatest weights on the smallest wires.'

l 87 *silent*,—dark. 'Silens luna' is the moon in conjunction, new moon. Dante speaks of the west as 'where the sun is silent' (Inferno, 1 60). Elsewhere he has the same metaphor, 'a place mute of light.'

l 89 *vacant*—'quia luna ibi vacat opere et ministerio suo' (Todd). Keightley remarks that the interlunar *cave* is an invention of Milton's own fancy.

l 100 *a living death* Instances of the use of this phrase are brought by Todd from Sackville, Drummond, Beaumont and Fletcher, Sylvester, Daniel, and Shakespeare (Richard III 1 2)

l 111 *steering this way*,—cf Nativity Ode 146 Comus 310 (Various Readings)

l 115 In the Orestes of Euripides, the Chorus is enjoined by Electra to move softly lest they should wake her brother (Orestes, 1313)

l 118 *diffus'd* —a Latinism Cf

'Fusaque erant toto languida membra toro

(Ovid, Epist iii 3 8),

Aeneid, i 213, and Faery Queene, I vii 7

l 133 *Chalybean* The Chalybes lived south of the Black Sea, and were famous for working in metal The third syllable should be long though here shortened, like that of 'Thyestean' in Paradise Lost, x 688

l 139 *his lion ramp*,—cf Paradise Lost, iv 343, Faery Queene, I viii 12 *ramp* (from Fr *ramper*, to climb) was applied to the action of rearing, with the notion of fierceness, as in Psalm xxii 13 (Prayer-book Version)

l 145 Judges xv 17

l 147 *Azza*,—Gaza (Deut ii 23) Sandys says 'Gaza or Aza signifieth "strong," in Persian, "a treasury"'

l 148 *seat of giants old*,—cf Joshua xv 13, 14, Numb xii 33

l 149 The Jews were permitted to travel only for the distance of three-quarters of a mile on the Sabbath-day (Keightley)

l 164 This passage resembles the lament of the Chorus over the fallen fortunes of Oedipus (Sophocles Oedipus Rex 1186, &c)

l 165 *Since man on earth*,—cf Paradise Lost, i 573

l 172 Fortune was painted as standing on a sphere, but by 'sphere' in this passage Milton must mean 'wheel,' for a sphere could not well 'raise' (Keightley)

l 181 Eshtaol and Zora lay at no great distance from each other along the sea-coast from Joppa to Gaza (Keightley)

l 184 *apt words have power*,—cf Horace, Epistles, i i 34 Cf Faery Queene, I x 24

l 191 Keightley quotes Ovid's lines (Tristia, i 9 5)

'Donec eris felix, multos munerabis amicos,

Tempora si fuerint nubila, solus eris

l 195 *that which was the worst*,—i. e. his blindness (l 66)

l 203 Job xxx 9

l 210 Cf l 759 and l 1034 and Milton's opinion that in marriage choices, 'the best and wisest men, amidst the sincere and most cordial designs of their hearts, do daily err in choosing' (Tetrachordon) Cf also Paradise Lost, x 899, &c

l 222 *motion'd*,—proposed So in Paradise Lost, ix 229

l 226 *driv'nely*,—from heaven So in Paradise Lost, viii 500, Paradise Regained, iv 357

l 230 *specious*,—handsome (speciosa)

l 235 *peal of words* 'Peal' is similarly used in Love's Labour's Lost, v i

l 247 *ambition*,—in its primary meaning of suing for office, canvassing

l 253 *Etham* The desert of Etham, or the wilderness of Shur, was part of the Great Arabian desert (Numb xxxii 8)

l 278 Judges viii 4-9

l 282 Judges xi 15-27, and xii 1-6

l 265 *tribe* is used for a lower division of one of the Tribes of Israel in Numb iv 18, Judges xx 12, 1 Sam ix 21

l 294 Cf Paradise Lost, i 26

l 299 Psalm lxxi 1 Cf Tennyson's 'school,'

'where blind and naked Ignorance

Delivers brawling judgments, unabashed,

On all things all day long' (Idylls Vivien)

l 303 '*Maiestatem populi Romani minuire*' was the same as to be guilty of a '*crimen laesae maiestatis*' So Milton, by 'the diminution of God's glory,' means 'high treason against him'

l 309 Contrast this with the utterance of Hooker, 'The being of God is a kind of law to His working' (Ecclesiastical Polity, I i 2)

l 319 *purity*,—ceremonial purity according to the Law of Moses

l 321 *unchaste* The application of this word to Dalila is not warranted by Scripture But Milton maintained in his Doctrine of Divorce that perverse behaviour on the part of a wife was equivalent to fornication (Keightley)

l 345 *Duell'd* It was a single combat on Samson's side (Keightley) From an extract given by Latham from Hammond's Sermons, it would appear that if the combat were single on one side only, the word might be used Lord Bacon uses it to denote an encounter between champions as opposed to a general engagement

l 360 Luke xi 12

l 362 Isaiah v 7, lxx 2

l 373 *Appoint* Warburton and Todd understand this word as here equivalent to 'arraign,' 'blame,' but Keightley interprets the passage, 'Do not you take the direction, the appointment of things reserved for the disposal of Providence'

l 394 *capital secret*,—i.e. the secret of my head, as *capital* is used in Paradise Lost xii 383

l 437 Judges xvi 23

l 442 *disglorified*,—deprived of glory Todd adduces the following words compounded by Milton with *dis-* as a negative prefix—'*disallied*' (at l 1022) '*disespoused*' (Paradise Lost, ix 17), '*disexercising* and blunting our abilities,' '*disconsenting*,' '*disgospelling*,' '*disworship*, from the Prose Works

l 453 Milton uses '*idolism*' (Paradise Regained, iv 234) and '*idolish*' in his Reason of Church Government

l 471 *blank*,—'make pale,' and so 'confound' Spenser has both meanings They are blended in the line from Hamlet, iii 2 (Play)

'Each opposite that blanks the face of joy

l 472 So Aeneas seizes on the omen from the mouth of his son Ascanius (*Aeneid*, vii 117)

l 500 Alluding to the punishment of Tantalus for divulging the secret counsels of Zeus, whose guest he had been

1 533 *venereal trains*,—artifices of love and desire Cf *Paradise Lost*,
xi 624 (Keightley)

1 535 Cf *Faery Queene*, II vi 14

1 543 *the dancing ruby*,—cf *Prov* xxiii 31, *Paradise Lost*, v 633,
Comus 673

1 545 *Judges ix 13* Milton's version, remarks Keightley, is more
faithful, as *Elohim* frequently signifies great men Cf also *Psalm civ 15*

1 550 *clear milky juice* Milton had already called 'water' 'milk,' for
resembling it in sweetness (*Paradise Lost*, v 306), but 'juice' for 'fluid' is
surely a strong oxymoron But he uses it in reference, and in opposition, to
the juice of the grape He probably at this time had *Aeschylus* (who is
addicted to strong figures) read to him (Keightley)

1 557 Cf *Numbers vi*, *Amos ii 12*

1 569 *Robustious*—forcible, violent, as in robustious periwig-pated
fellow' (*Hamlet*, ii 2) Here merely 'strong' It is used for 'violent' in
Henry V iii 7 So in passages from *Fuller* and *Dravton*, quoted by *Richardson*

1 574 *druff*—refuse, especially hogwash (*Nares*) Cf 'still swine'
eat all the druff' (*Merry Wives of Windsor*, iv 2), and *Falstaff's* description
of his recruits, 'so many prodigals, come from swine-keeping, from eating
druff and husks' (*1 Henry IV iv 2*) *Richardson* derives the word from
A S dræfan, to drive, i.e. what is driven out *Latham* gives as kindred
words the Dutch *drabbe*, and Danish *dura*=dregs Cf *Paradise Lost*,
x 630

1 581 Milton here follows (not our translation, but) the *Chaldee* para-
phrase and the best commentators, who hold that God made a cleft in some
of the ground or rock, in the place called *Lehi*, *Lehi* meaning both a jaw
and a place so called (*Newton*)

1 600 *humours black*,—according to the old physiology *Burton*, in his
Anatomy of Melancholy, adduces the opinion of *Galen*, that the mind
itself, by those dark, obscure, gross fumes, ascending from black humours,
is in continual darkness, fear, and sorrow

1 605 *healing words*,—a phrase of *Euripides* (*Hippolytus*, 478) Cf
Paradise Lost, ix 290

1 612 *accidentis*—in the scholastic sense See note on *Vacation Ex-*
ercise 74

1 620 *wounds unmedicable*,—the 'immedicable vulnus' of *Ovid* (*Meta-*
morphoses, x 189)

1 627 *Todd* remarks, that in Milton's own editions of his prose works,
he spells 'medicinal' repeatedly Cf *Comus* 636 Otherwise I should in-
cline to read 'medicinal' with the penultimate accented, as in *Othello v 2*

'Drop tears as fast as the Arabian trees

Their medicinal gum'

1 628 *Alp*—for mountain in general Cf *Paradise Lost*, ii 620

1 634 Cf *Paradise Lost*, ix 31

1 637 *abstemious*,—in its original Latin sense, refraining from wine
(Keightley) So used by *Ovid* (*Metamorphoses*, xv 323)

1 659 *Lenient of grief*,—alleviating it *Horace* has '*lenire dolorem*'
(*Epistles*, i i 34)

1 657 *Heads*,—for 'persons,' a Latinism, as in *Horace* (*Odes*, i 24 2)

l 683 *highb of noon*, —cf Wolsey's 'full meridian of my glory' (Henry VIII iii 2)

l 693 Cf *Iliad*, i 4

l 695 Alluding probably to the proceedings against Sir Harry Vane

✓ l 700 *crude*, —premature, not in its proper season But Virgil uses '*cruda senectus*,' in the opposite sense of hale, vigorous age

l 701 In this and the next line the commentators suppose there is an allusion to Milton's gout

l 714 Milton, in scorn of the clergy (Of Reformation, ii), pictures them 'under sail, in all their lawn and sarcenet, their shrouds and tackle

l 715 *Tarsus*, —Tarshish, which word Milton avoided from his dislike to the sound of *sb* He seems to have agreed with those who thought that Tarshish was Tarsus in Cilicia, not Tartessus in Spain (Keightley)

l 716 *Javan*, —the 'isles of Javan,' = Greece Cf note on *Paradise Lost*, i 508

Gadire, —i.e. Gades, Cadiz

l 719 Cf Gratiano's speech in *Merchant of Venice*, iv 6

l 720 *amber* —i.e. ambergris, amber is scentless (Keightley)

l 728 *Like a fair flower*, —transplanted hither from *Iliad* viii 306

✓ l 748 'Many strange matters are related of this beast [the hyæna], and above all other, that he will feign man's speech, and coming to the shepherds' cottages, will call one of them forth whose name he hath learned, and when he hath him without, all to worry and tear him to pieces' (Holland's translation of Pliny)

l 76 'Cf Milton's reflection (Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce) on 'two persons ill embarkt in wedlock' 'What folly is it to stand combating and battering against invincible causes and effects, with evil upon evil, till either the best of our days be lingered out, or ended with some speeding sorrow!

l 785 *parle* —parley Cf the 'angry parle' in *Hamlet*, i 1 It has here the sense of 'agreement,' 'reconciliation' as in *Paradise Regained*, iv 529

l 808 *Mine and love's prisoner*, —cf Juliet's speech (*Romeo and Juliet*, ii 2)

'Tis almost morning, I would have thee gone,' &c

l 840 The same construction occurs in *Paradise Lost*, ix 792

l 842 Or Keightley suspects that Milton dictated 'And' Cf *Paradise Lost*, ix 1059

l 897 *acquit themselves* 'Acquit is derived by Menage from the barbarous Latin *adquiescere*, to give quiet to one accused or in debt So 'to acquit' oneself would mean to clear oneself of accusation, or perform any bounden duty, or needful task Cf l 1709

l 901 Contrast Othello's 'round unvarnished tale' (i 3)

l 910 Cf *Heb* xii 17

l 936 Cf *Psalms* lviii 4, 5

l 953 Cf Sir Giles Overreach's exclamation,

'O that I had thee in my gripe! I'd tear thee

Joint after joint!' (*New Way to pay Old Debts*, v 1)

Polymestor expresses a similar wish with regard to Hecuba (*Euripides*, *Hecuba*, 1125)

l 973 Milton stands alone in making Fame masculine His Fame is probably Shakespeare's Rumour (Keightley)

1 982 A similar perpetuity of fame is promised by Iolaus to Macaria, in the *Heracleidae* of Euripides (598)

1 995 So Teucer (Sophocles, *Ajax* 1038) bids his opponents love their opinions, as he will his own

1 1003 Exemplified in *Paradise Lost* x 940, &c

1 1008 Cf 'Amantium irae, amoris integratio est' (Terence, *Andria*, iii 3 23)

1 1020, *paranymph*,—the friend of the bridegroom, who went with him on the wedding-day to fetch the bride home Jeremy Taylor uses the word of one that 'solicits the suit, and makes the contract, and joins the hands'

1 1037 *Intestine* Keightley refers to 2 Cor xii 7

1 1039 A *cleaving mischief*—like the poisoned shirt sent to Hercules by Deianira Dryden applies the same phrase with the same allusion in his *Aurengzebe*

1 1075 *fraught*,—freight, as 'the bark that hath discharged her fraught' (Titus Andronicus, i 2) Cf *Comus* 355

1 1079 In 2 Sam xxi we read of the 'sons of Harapha,' but whether Harapha be a proper name, or mean 'giant' (as translated in our version) is uncertain (Keightley)

1 1080 *Anak*, and the *Emims*,—cf Deut iii 11, ii 10, 11, Gen xiv 5

1 1081 Cf *Paradise Lost*, iv 830

1 1093 *Gyves*,—handcuffs, not chains Gyves and cuffs are different forms of the same word (Keightley) But Falstaff's description of his recruits seems to shew that 'gyves' were used to fetter the legs (1 Henry IV iv 2) Richardson derives the word from A S *gefeterian*, to fetter Latham notices the Welsh *gefyn*, a fetter

1 1109 *assassinated* The word was formerly used, as in French and Italian, to denote an assault with murderous intent, even if the intent were not accomplished, and its meaning is here extended to maltreatment in general (Trench)

1 1120 *brigandine*,—a coat of mail (Jer xlv 4)

babergeon—mail for the neck and shoulders Nares derives the word from 'hals,' the neck, and 'bergen' to cover

1 1121 *vant brace*,—(avant bras) armour for the arms

greves—for the legs (1 Sam xvii 6) Richardson derives the word from A S *grafan*, to hollow out, i e *grooves* for the legs, Latham from Norm Fr *grève*, shin

1 1122 Ajax in Ovid (*Metamorphoses*, xiii 2) is 'clypei dominus septemphcis' Cf *Iliad*, vii 220

1 1134 Alluding to the oath in which the adverse champions swore that they had no aid from charms or enchantments

1 1138 *ruff'd porcupines*,—recalling the 'fretful porcupine' of Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, i 8)

1 1162 *comrade* is thus accented in Shakespeare (*Hamlet* i 3, 1 Henry IV iv 1)

1 1164 *boist'rous*=robustious, l 569 Richardson gives the derivation from Dutch *buster*, furious In one of his examples from old English writers the word is applied to a tree, and bears the meaning of 'strong' required here

- l 1181 *doughty*,—valiant (A S *dohtig*)
 l 1188 *their robes*,—following the margin of our translation of Judges
 xiv 19, which has 'apparel for the 'spoil' of the text
 l 1195 Josephus says that under the pretence of honour, the Philistines
 sent these thirty companions to watch over Samson (Judges xiv 11)
 l 1220 *appellant*,—challenger, as 'defendant' was the person challenged
 Both words are thus used in 2 Henry VI ii 3
 l 1222 *thrice* Challenges were thrice repeated In the last scene of
 Lear, Edgar appears at the 'third sounding of the trumpet'
 l 1226 Alluding to the regulations of the duello, which forbade the
 acceptance of a challenge given by a traitor, thief, heretic, or other dis-
 honourable person
 l 1248 Keightley remarks that 'our version of 2 Sam xxi 19 inserts,
 without any authority, "*the brother of Goliath*," since Goliath had already
 been slain by David and in this Milton acquiesces'
 l 1278 The same sort of jingle as in *Paradise Lost*, l 642
 l 1283 Cf 'Then fiery expedition be my wing' (Richard III iv 3)
 l 1309 *remark*—make remarkable, point out 'Perhaps Milton here
 imitates the intensive form of the Latin *re* in composition' (Keightley)
 l 1312 *triumph*,—see note on L'Allegro 120
 l 1323 The *artists* here named are those of Milton's own day
 l 1325 *jugglers*,—originally minstrels (Lat *joculator*, N Fr *jongleur*)
munimers (so called from their silent pantomime) were attendants on
 Christmas festivities
 l 1362 *execrably* Keightley conjectures that Milton dictated 'execrable,'
 and so the line would correspond with ll 1361, 1364
 l 1377 Cf 2 Kings v 18, 19
 l 1387 Shakespeare has brought out this 'presage in the mind' in Romeo
 and Juliet, where the woman's 'ill-divining soul' has the truer instinct (iii 5
 and v 1), and in Bassanio's anticipations of good fortune (Merchant of Venice,
 i 1) which indeed may have had surer ground than presentiment
 l 1410, *doff*,—put off ('do off,' as 'don' is 'do on')
 l 1421 Cf Horace, *Ars Poetica* 224
 l 1448 *come*,—for 'go' 'It is thus that the Latin and Italian confound
 'eo' and 'venio' Our ancestors in like manner used 'learn' for 'teach,'
 and 'take' for 'give' (Keightley)
 l 1472 *tore the sky*—cf *Paradise Lost*, l 542
 l 1494 *a nation arm'd*,—an expression resembling Ovid's concerning
 the hair of Nisus (*Metamorphoses*, viii 10)
 l 1512 *inhabitation*,—world (*οικουμένη*)
 l 1515 *ruin*,—in the sense of falling Cf *Paradise Lost*, l 46
 l 1519 This and the following line rhyme, as do also ll 1525, 1526
 (Keightley)
 l 1529 *dole* is what is 'dealt,' as in the proverb, 'Happy man be his
 dole,' and 'the dole of blows' (2 Henry IV i 1) There is a play on the
 other meaning of 'dole,' sorrow (Cf *Paradise Lost*, iv 894)
 l 1536 It has been proposed to give this line and half of the next to the
 Chorus, assigning to Manoa the ensuing half line and line 1538
 l 1541 *O wubber*, &c So the messengers in Greek tragedy enter with

loud exclamations, when they have to announce some dire calamity (Aeschylus, Persæ, 249)

1 1554 *needs*,—neuter verb here, as in *Paradise Lost*, x 80

1 1556 *distract* This form is used also by Shakespeare (*Julius Cæsar*, iv 3)

1 1562 Cf 'O, I have fed upon this woe already,
And now excess of it will make me surfeit'

(*Two Gentlemen of Verona*, iii 1)

1 1577 Cf 'An envious sneaping frost
That bites the first-born infants of the spring'

(*Love's Labour's Lost*, i 1)

1 1593 Keightley thinks that this speech may properly belong to the Chorus

1 1608 *Of sort*—of quality (Keightley) Cf 'men of sort and suit (Measure for Measure, iv 4), 'prisoners of good sort' (*Henry V* iv 8)

1 1619 *Catapbraets*,—heavy armed cavalry, the horses being protected by mail as well as their riders Cf *Aeneid*, xi 770, and *Paradise Regained*, iii 313

1 1627 *stupendous*,—this form is used also in *Paradise Lost*, x 351 It occurs also in Harrington's translation of the *Orlando Furioso*

1 1637 *eyes fast fix'd*,—cf *Iliad* iii 218 The exact parallel to the present passage is in Persius, *Satires*, iii 79

'Obstipo capite et figentes lumine terram'

1 1647 *As with the force*, &c,—cf *Paradise Lost*, vi 195, &c

1 1666 *dire necessity*,—the phrase of Horace (*Odes*, iii 24 6)

1 1667 *in number more*—Judges xvi 30

1 1670 *drunk with idolatry*—Isaiah xxix 9

1 1674 *In Silo* The ark remained in Shiloh from the time of Joshua to that of Eli, more than four hundred years

1 1689 *inward eyes*,—cf the 'mind's eye' of Shakespeare (*Hamlet*, i 2), and Wordsworth's

'inward eye'

That is the bliss of solitude'

1 1691 *from under ashes*,—cf Gray's line

'E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires'

1 1692 *And as*, &c Keightley thinks that Milton dictated 'Nor as' Cf 'Nor think,' &c, *Paradise Lost*, vi 282 'Chapman begins two sonnets prefixed to his *Iliad* with "Nor" for "And not"'

1 1695 *villatic fowl*,—the 'villaticas alites' of Pliny (xxii 17), equivalent to 'barndoor fowl' 'Serpents were said to destroy birds and their young (*Iliad*, ii 308, &c), but not to attack hen roosts' (Keightley) 'Villatic' was used as equivalent to 'rustic' 'Villatic bashfulness' is a phrase in the *Rambler* (No 147)

1 1699 *self-begotten bird*,—the phoenix Cf *Paradise Lost*, v 272, note

1 1700 *embost*,—hidden in the woods (Ital *emboscare*) In *Butler's Elephant in the Moon*

'Look quickly, lest the sight of us

Should cause the startled beast t' emboss'

Cf 'They seek the dark, the bushy, the tangled forest, they would imbosc', (*Reformation in England*, close of Bk 1)

l 1701 *nor third* Landon notices the absurdity of these words, inserted apparently for rhyme's sake

l 1702 *holocaust*,—a whole burnt offering

l 1706 *secular bird* —because it was fabled to live for a thousand years Lactantius (in a passage quoted by Newton) uses 'seculum' for a thousand years In classical Latin it is nearly equivalent to our 'century' Herodotus gives five hundred years as the age of the phoenix

l 1708 Hecuba, when informed of the heroic death of her daughter Polyxena, checks her grief in a similar manner (Hecuba 592)

l 1714 *Caphtor* The Philistines were a colony from the island Caphtor (Jer xlvii 4), i e Crete or, according to some commentators, Cyprus

l 1732 *obsequy* —following, train (Lat *obsequiae*) used in the singular by the chronicler Fabian, and by Daniel (of the funeral of Richard II), but usually in plural, as in Latin

l 1755 *acquist*,—acquisition Jeremy Taylor uses the word in his sermon On the Foolish Exchange when speaking of 'the time expired in the acquist and purchase' of this world's riches



APPENDIX

, THE subjoined extracts from the Prose Works give Milton's own account of his education, his ideal of a true poet, and his project of some great work to be left to after-time as a 'possession for ever'

Apology for Smectymnus

'I had my time, readers, as others have, who have good learning bestowed upon them, to be sent to those places where the opinion was it might be soonest attained, and as the manner is, was not unstudied in those authors which are most commended, whereof some were grave orators and historians, whose matter methought I loved indeed, but as my age then was, so I understood them, others were the smooth elegiac poets, whereof the schools are not scarce, whom both for the pleasing sound of their numerous writing, which in imitation I found most easy, and most agreeable to nature's part in me, and for their matter, which what it is there be few that know not, I was so allured to read, that no recreation came to me better welcome. For that it was then those years with me which are excused though they be least severe, I may be saved the labour to remember ye. Whence having observed them to account it the chief glory of their wit, in that they were ablest to judge, to praise, and by that could esteem themselves worthiest to love those high perfections which under one or other name they took to celebrate, I thought with myself by every instinct and presage of nature, which is not wont to be false, that what emboldened them to this task might with such diligence as they used embolden me, and that what judgment, wit, or elegance was my share, would herein best appear, and best value itself, by how much more wisely and with more love of virtue, I should choose (let rude ears be absent) the object of not unlike praises. By the firm settling of these persuasions I became to my best memory so much a proficient, that if I found those authors anywhere speaking unworthy things of themselves, or unchaste of those names which before they had extolled, this effect it wrought with me, from that time forward their art I still applauded, but the

men I deplored, and above them all preferred the two famous renowners of Beatrice and Laura, who never write but honour of them to whom they devote their verse, displaying sublime and pure thoughts, without transgression. And long it was not after, when I was confirmed in this opinion, that he who would not be frustrate of his hope to write well hereafter in laudable things, ought himself to be a true poem, that is, a composition and pattern of the best and most honourable things, not presuming to sing high praises of heroic men or famous cities, unless he have in himself the experience and the practice of all that which is praiseworthy. Next (for hear me out now, readers) that I may tell ye whither my younger feet wandered, I betook me among those lofty fables and romances, which recount in solemn cantos the deeds of knighthood founded by our victorious kings, and from thence had in renown over all Christendom. There I read it in the oath of every knight, that he should defend to the expense of his best blood, or of his life if it so befel him, the honour and chastity of virgin or matron. From whence even then I learnt what a noble virtue chastity sure must be, to the defence of which so many worthies by such a dear adventure of themselves had sworn. And if I found in the story afterward any of them by word or deed breaking that oath, I judged it the same fault of the poet, as that which is attributed to Homer, to have written undecent things of the gods. Only this my mind gave me, that every free and gentle spirit, without that oath, ought to be born a knight, nor needed to expect the gilt spur, or the laying of a sword upon his shoulder to stir him up both by his counsel and his arm to secure and protect the weakness of any attempted chastity. So that even these books which to many others have been the fuel of wantonness and loose living, I cannot think how unless by Divine indulgence proved to me so many incitements, as you have heard, to the love and steadfast observation of virtue. Thus from the laureate fraternity of poets, riper years and the ceaseless round of study and reading led me to the shady spaces of philosophy, but chiefly to the divine volumes of Plato and his equal Xenophon. Where if I should tell ye what I learnt of chastity and love, I mean that which is truly so, whose charming cup is only virtue, which she bears in her hand to those who are worthy (the rest are cheated with a thick intoxicating potion, which a certain sorceress, the abuser of love's name, carries about,) and how the first and chiefest office of love begins and ends in the soul, producing those happy twins of divine generation, knowledge and virtue,—with such abstracted sublimities as these,—it might be worth your listening, readers, as I may one day hope to have ye, in a still time, when there shall be no chiding.

Reason of Church Government urged against Prelaty
Book II

‘Although a poet, soaring in the high region of his fancies, with his garland and singing robes about him, might without apology speak more of himself than I mean to do, yet for me sitting here below in the cool element of prose, a mortal thing among many readers of no empyreal concert, to venture and divulge unusual things of myself, I shall petition to the gentler sort, it may not be envy to me I must say, therefore, that after I had for my first years by the ceaseless diligence and care of my father, whom God recompense, been exercised to the tongues, and some sciences, as my age would suffer, by sundry masters and teachers, both at home and at the schools, it was found that whether aught was imposed me by them that had the overlooking, or betaken to of mine own choice in English, or other tongue, prosing or versing, but chiefly by this latter, the style, by certain vital signs it had, was likely to live But much latelier in the private academies of Italy, whither I was favoured to resort, perceiving that some trifles which I had in memory, composed at under twenty or thereabout, (for the manner is that every one must give some proof of his wit and reading there,) met with acceptance above what was looked for, and other things which I had shifted in scarcity of books and conveniences to patch up amongst them, were received with written encomiums, which the Italian is not forward to bestow on men of this side the Alps, I began thus far to assent both to them and divers of my friends here at home, and not less to an inward prompting which now grew daily upon me, that by labour and intent study, (which I take to be my portion in this life,) joined with the strong propensity of nature, I might perhaps leave something so written to aftertimes, as they should not willingly let it die These thoughts at once possessed me, and these other That if I were certain to write as men buy leases, for three lives and downward, there ought no regard be sooner had, than to God’s glory by the honour and instruction of my country For which cause, and not only for that I knew it would be hard to arrive at the second rank among the Latins, I applied myself to that resolution, which Ariosto followed against the persuasions of Bembo, to fix all the industry and art I could unite to the adorning of my native tongue, not to make verbal curiosities the end, (that were a toilsome vanity,) but to be an interpreter and relater of the best and sagest things among mine own citizens throughout this land in the mother dialect That what the greatest and

choicest wits of Athens, Rome, or modern Italy, and those Hebrews of old did for their country, I, in my proportion, with this over and above, of being a Christian, might do for mine, not caring to be once named abroad, though perhaps I could attain to that, but content with these British islands as my world, whose fortune hath hitherto been, that if the Athenians, as some say, made their small deeds great and renowned by their eloquent writers, England hath had her noble achievements made small by the unskilful handling of monks and mechanics

Time serves not now, and perhaps I might seem too profuse to give any certain account of what the mind at home in the spacious circuits of her musing hath liberty to propose to herself, though of highest hope, and hardest attempting, whether that epic form whereof the two poems of Homer, and those other two of Virgil and Tasso, are a diffuse, and the book of Job a brief model or whether the rules of Aristotle herein are strictly to be kept, or nature to be followed, which in them that know art and use judgment, is no transgression, but an enriching of art and lastly, what king or knight before the conquest might be chosen in whom to lay the pattern of a Christian hero And as Tasso gave to a prince of Italy his choice whether he would command him to write of Godfrey's expedition against the Infidels, or Belisarius against the Goths, or Charlemain against the Lombards, if to the instinct of nature and the emboldening of art ought may be trusted, and that there be nothing adverse in our climate, or the fate of this age, it haply would be no rashness, from an equal diligence and inclination, to present the like offer in our own ancient stories Or whether those dramatic constitutions, wherein Sophocles and Euripides reign, shall be found more doctrinal and exemplary to a nation The scripture also affords us a divine pastoral drama in the Song of Solomon, consisting of two persons, and a double chorus, as Origen rightly judges And the Apocalypse of St John is the majestic image of a high and stately tragedy, shutting up and intermingling her solemn scenes and acts with a sevenfold chorus of hallelujahs and harping symphonies and thus my opinion the grave authority of Pareus, commenting that book, is sufficient to confirm Or if occasion shall lead to imitate those magnific odes and hymns, wherein Pindarus and Callimachus are in most things worthy, some others in their frame judicious, in their matter most an end faulty But those frequent songs throughout the law and prophets beyond all these, not in their divine argument alone, but in the very critical art of composition, may be easily made appear over all the kinds of lyric poetry to be incomparable These abilities, wheresoever they be found, are the inspired gift of God, rarely bestowed, but yet to some

(though most abuse) in every nation, and are of power, beside the office of a pulpit, to imbreed and cherish in a great people the seeds of virtue and public civility, to allay the perturbations of the mind, and set the affections in right tune, to celebrate in glorious and lofty hymns the throne and equipage of God's almightiness, and what he works, and what he suffers to be wrought with high providence in his church, to sing victorious agonies of martyrs and saints, the deeds and triumphs of just and pious nations doing valiantly through faith against the enemies of Christ, to deplore the general relapses of kingdoms and states from justice and God's true worship. Lastly, whatsoever in religion is holy and sublime, in virtue amiable or grave, whatsoever hath passion or admiration in all the changes of that which is called fortune from without, or the wily subtleties and refluxes of man's thoughts from within, all these things with a solid and treatable smoothness to paint out and describe. Teaching over the whole book of sanctity and virtue, through all the instances of example, with such delight to those especially of soft and delicious temper, who will not so much as look upon truth herself, unless they see her elegantly dressed, that whereas the paths of honesty and good life appear now rugged and difficult, though they be indeed easy and pleasant, they will then appear to all men both easy and pleasant, though they were rugged and difficult indeed. The accomplishment [of these intentions] lies not but in a power above man's to promise, but that none hath by more studious ways endeavoured, and with more unwearied spirit that none shall, that I dare almost aver of myself, as far as life and free leisure will extend, and that the land had once enfranchised herself from this impertinent yoke of prelacy, under whose inquisitorial and tyrannical duncery no free and splendid wit can flourish. Neither do I think it shame to covenant with any knowing reader, that for some few years yet I may go on trust with him toward the payment of what I am now indebted, as being a work not to be raised from the heat of youth, or the vapours of wine, like that which flows at waste from the pen of some vulgar amorist, or the trencher fury of a riming parasite, nor to be obtained by the invocation of dame Memory and her siren daughters, but by devout prayer to that eternal Spirit, who can enrich with all utterance and knowledge, and sends out his seraphim with the hallowed fire of his altar to touch and purify the lips of whom he pleases. To this must be added industrious and select reading, steady observation, insight into all seemly and generous arts and affairs, till which in some measure be compassed, at mine own peril and cost I refuse not to sustain this expectation from as many as are not loth to hazard, so much credulity upon the best pledges that I can give them.

Although it nothing content me to have disclosed thus much beforehand, but that I trust hereby to make it manifest with what small willingness I endure to interrupt the pursuit of no less hopes than these, and leave a calm and pleasing solitariness, fed with cheerful and confident thoughts, to embark in a troubled sea of noises and hoarse disputes, put from beholding the bright countenance of truth in the quiet and still air of delightful studies'

In the *Defensio Secunda* is another autobiographical passage, of which the substance has been already given in the *Life*

R C B



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CORRIGENDA

- Page 11, line 319, *after blown alter full stop to comma*
 321, *for sme'ling read swelling*
 322, *after field alter colon to comma*
- Page 28, line 269, *for and read as*
- Page 29, line 314, *after awe insert comma*
- Page 53, line 505, *for changed read chang'd*
- Page 191, line 258, *after sung insert comma*

January, 1871

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